

**SB 258 –SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENRIONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES –
PUBLIC HEARING ON FEBRUARY 9, 2015**

My name is Dave Price. I am a resident of Umatilla County. **SB 258 is a very bad bill.** It strips the citizens of Umatilla County Ordinance – 152.616 HHH, Siting of Energy Projects.

This Umatilla County Ordinance was created by the Citizens of Umatilla County and is in Compliance with all Land Use Laws and Regulations. It was created and updated in 2011 because Umatilla County recognized that the siting of Energy Projects was a significant impact on the Counties' resources and citizens. One size approach offered by previous ordinances, and now proposed by SB258, does not and will not work.

The process to create Ordinance 152.616.HHH was long, involving several years and also involved countless hearings and testimony that produced over 4,000 pages of records, and received significant public support. The Ordinance recognized specific County issues such as the Walla Walla Watershed, with its threatened and endangered fish, critical habitat, highly erodible soils, water quality and other significant values found in the foothills of the Blue Mountains located in Umatilla County. This ordinance dealt with those important issues.

It also recognized the issues which affected landowners and other citizens that were concerned about the intrusive impact of wind energy on their county. The ordinance dealt with these issues. The process listened to the Citizens of Umatilla County and working together, solved the issues for the best of all involved.

This process produced the ordinance that was approved by the Umatilla County Commissioners in June 2011. Legal challenges by the wind industry and participating land owners followed. The legal process lasted two and a half years. The people of Umatilla County persisted and the legal challenges ended November 19, 2013. It was a long and costly process but, the decision withstood all legal challenges.

The Citizens of Umatilla County place a high value on this ordinance and rely on it as protection for them. **SB258 would take this away.** Umatilla County citizens do not take such unjust action lightly.

The other issue in SB258 pertains to process rules for subsequent amendments to **previously Approved Site Certificates**. Many amendments are for time extensions for start and completion dates for the Site Certificate. The limits for the number of times a project may be amended are endless. The project with amendments under SB258 would be limitless and could involve many years.

During extended period of time, many changes could occur; whether it be new ordinances, Law, regulations or a resource issue changes that need to be considered in the project, SB258 would only allow Original Site Certificate issues to be considered in subsequent amendments. **This is a very negative consequence of SB258.**

The language in SB258 would allow a Site Certificate Project that as originally presented as a relatively small project with limited issues, to become a large project that would greatly increase the size of the project through subsequent amendments, without further analysis or consideration of the increased issues, concerns or impacts. This section of SB258 is unacceptable and needs to be deleted or rewritten to improve the current rules to recognize this defect.**SB258 proposed changes to the amendment process will make a marginal process worse.**

In summary –

SB258 is a very bad bill. It needs to be totally rewritten to make the shortcomings of the present process better not worse. As written, it strips the local authority from the people That is unacceptable. The local authorities are perfectly capable to apply State Land Use Laws and in no way should authority be handed over to state control. The Local Government can handle the job.

SB258 unless rewritten, should not be referred out of Committee or progress further in The legislative process.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dave Price
Citizen of Umatilla County