

February 5, 2015

Hon. Christ Edwards, Chair
Senate Committee on Environment
And Natural Resources
900 Court St., NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: SB-258 (amendments to ORS 469.401
Comments on behalf of The Blue Mountain Alliance

Dear Chairman Edwards and Committee Members;

Oregon State declares that since 1973 Oregon has maintained a strong statewide program for land use planning. The foundation of that program is a set of 19 statewide planning goals. Through this process City and counties are required to adopt a comprehensive plan and the ordinances needed to put the plan into effect and then these are reviewed by the states land conservation and development commission.

As energy facilities are being built, local jurisdictions might be made aware of circumstances that need to be changed and adopt new rules for the corrections that need to be done. This process alone can sometimes take years. Some of these regulations could have significant impacts to wildlife, wintering ranges, critical water resources, fish passage (needed fish ladders) or blockage (needed fish streams), archaeological areas, emissions standards, project placement, etc.

Many industrial wind generation projects are put together in hopes of selling the project to someone else or writing for a better economic environment to build. These projects based on speculation often ask for and receive multiyear extensions for start and stop dates.

SB-258 is a bad bill because it would exempt projects revised through an amended site certificate from complying with current local regulation and take them out of the planning goals process at the time of the amendment.

Attached is the letter from Daniel Kearns with Reeve Kearns PC, Attorneys at law who represent Blue Mountain Alliance.

Richard Jolly
President of Blue Mountain Alliance