



American Planning Association
Oregon Chapter

Making Great Communities Happen

April 10, 2015

Representative Brian Clem, Chair
House Committee on Rural Communities, Land Use and Water

RE: House Bill 2508

Honorable Clem and Committee Members:

The Oregon chapter of the American Planning Association represents over 800 professional and citizen planners in Oregon. The organization supports state policies and legislation that foster good community planning.

OAPA has adopted guiding principles for legislation, including legislation related to the protection of farm and forest lands and principles relating to energy development. House Bill 2508 would make minor changes to the EFU statute so that siting and permitting of transmission lines would require avoidance of high value farmland. Standards to protect high value farmland are common throughout the EFU statute and are indeed appropriate for siting transmission lines.

OAPA supported HB 2704 in the 2013 legislative session. We believe the proposed provisions in HB 2508 complement those provisions and will foster the protection of high-value farmland while still allowing the development of transmission lines to serve renewable energy and reliable transmission.

We urge you to support the bill with a Do Pass recommendation.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jason Franklin'.

Jason Franklin, President
Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association

Cc: OAPA Board