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ATTN: House Energy and Environment Committee

Chair Helm & members of the committee,

My name is Sal Peralta. I am Secretary of the Independent Party of Oregon.

The Independent Party of Oregon opposes HB 4148, which seeks to establish the Oregon Energy Board as an advisory body for the State Department of Energy.

The legislation gives the governor the authority to appoint a 7-member board, subject to legislative approval, and allows the governor to appoint up to two people who:

“... who hold a pecuniary interest in, have any contract of employment with, or have any substantial voluntary transactions with a business entity conducting operations that, if conducted in this state, would be subject to the energy resource supplier assessment imposed under ORS 469.421 (8).”

We do not agree that any person with these clear conflicts of interest should be permitted to sit on a board advising the Oregon Department of Energy on these matters. We note that such conflicts are not permitted on other state boards, including the Energy Facility Siting Council.

Respectfully,

Sal Peralta
Secretary, Independent Party of Oregon