

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HB 2322 AS CURRENTLY WRITTEN SCHEDULED FOR HEARING
ON 4/2/19

Noone can argue that wind and solar energy development exacts a toll on the resources of the state. Oregon resources should not be sacrificed to produce energy to meet other states renewable energy mandates. This bill will encourage more renewable energy developments in Oregon even though there is no market in this state for the energy.

For this reason, I am concerned regarding imposing requirements on the Land Conservation and Development Commission to require that their decisions support development of industrial renewable energy facilities. Oregon is currently an exporter of renewable energy. We produce more energy than we use. According to the US Energy Department, in 2016 Oregon's electricity generation was 56.7% hydro, 12.1% wind, 3.2% coal, 25.8% natural gas, and 2.2% other including solar and other renewables.

There currently are developers who have received site certificates through the Oregon Department of Energy or are in the process of receiving them for approximately 3213 Mw of wind and solar which has not been built. This is nearly equal to the number of developments currently operating in the state. The pending developments include: Saddle Butte Wind Development 399 Mw 13,555 acres in siting corridors; Montegue Wind 404 Mw 13,717 acres in siting corridors; Wheatridge Wind Energy 500 Mw 13,097 acres in siting corridors; Summit Ridge 200 Mw 11,000 acres; Golden Hills 400 Mw 29,500 acres; Obsidian Solar Center 400 Mw on 3,921 acres; Boardman Solar Center 75 Mw on 798 acres; Bakeoven Solar 303 Mw on 10,615 acres; Blue Marmot Solar, 60 Mw on 5,170 acres; and Nolan Hills Wind 350 Mw on 44,900 acres.

The total land that will be consumed by these developments as reported by the developers is 146,273 acres. The actual impact is significantly greater.

Some of the developers only show the siting corridors as the acres of land they use. Three of the above have done that which understates the amount of land they use. Each of them actually are on sites that are at least 30,000 acres.

The total land used will actually be approximately 200,000 acres.

The greatest concern regarding the changes proposed by this bill will be Land Use changes that will impact Oregon's already shrinking agricultural lands since most developments are sited on agricultural land. This is due to a variety of reasons, but significant are the ease of building the developments, and the fact that developers are not required by Oregon Fish and Wildlife rules to provide mitigation for wildlife habitat damages to farm lands in this state.

Because Oregon does not require a determination that there is a need for developments, Oregon is becoming a favored siting location for energy developers who are looking to market their energy to other states. These developments provide minimal long term employment,

but significant long term environmental and wildlife damages to Oregon resources.

Since there are no determinations being made regarding the cumulative damages to wildlife, high value farm lands, historical resources, etc., the accumulation of the developments with the currently existing ones is very significant. They indicate that current land use laws and the interpretations being made by the Oregon Department of Energy in issuing site certificates are providing ample opportunity for renewable energy developments.

Any changes to Land Use laws to accomodate renewable energy development should be based upon an existing need in Oregon for the energy. There is no reason Oregon Land Use laws should be made lax to accomodate additional renewable energy development until the existing developments with site certificates are actually built and there is a need in Oregon that justifies the sacrifice of our resources to build additional industrial wind and solar facilities.

Thank you for considering my comments.

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