

Members of the Committee,

I am a retired attorney and a resident of La Grande.

I have just learned that another resident of La Grande has written to voice her objection to Hanley Jenkins' ongoing role as a member of ODOE's Energy Facility Siting Council, in violation of the statute which limits any member to a two-year term. I completely agree with the sentiments expressed by Irene Gilbert in her complaint about Hanley Jenkins' statutorily prohibited appointment as an EFSC member. In fact, the EFSC recently concluded three days of hearings in La Grande. At that time, I spoke to the EFSC in regard to Hanley Jenkins' service as a member of the EFSC.

First, I questioned the fact that Mr. Jenkins is a member of the EFSC at all. Before his retirement, Mr. Jenkins served as the planning director for Union County. During his time as planning director, he was a fierce advocate of the proposed (and failed), locally controversial Antelope Ridge Wind Farm in Union County. When community members began to question Mr. Jenkins' relationship to the wind farm developers and asked for his email exchanges with the developer as public records, Mr. Jenkins somehow "accidentally" deleted those emails in their entirety, generating much community distrust of Mr. Jenkins' activities as county planning director, and of the ethics of Mr. Jenkins himself. Mr. Jenkins was nevertheless appointed to the EFSC over significant objection from this community—from the people who know him best.

I also discussed the fact that ORS 469.450, regarding EFSC council members, explicitly states that "no member shall serve more than two full terms." Despite the clear statutory mandate, Mr. Jenkins inexplicably remains a member of the EFSC, and is currently halfway through his third term.

I also spoke to a much broader issue—that the fact that Mr. Jenkins remains on the council despite his statutory ineligibility raises questions regarding the legitimacy of the very process by which energy siting facilities are made in Oregon. I discussed the fact that ODOE is responsible for making siting decisions under the auspices of its own internal entity, the EFSC. I noted that EFSC receives the information on which it makes its decisions directly from just two entities—the developer, and ODOE. I noted that the ODOE itself is not in fact an independent state agency, but that it receives money towards its own agency salaries and expenses directly from any developer who proposes an energy facility, and thus ODOE has a direct, substantial financial interest in pushing energy projects forward, regardless merit or whether a proposed project benefits or harms the residents of this state. I noted that the seven members who make up the EFSC are part-time volunteers, many of whom have little or no experience or expertise in the any of the specific, highly technical areas in which the EFSC must make its billion-dollar siting decisions on behalf of the state. I noted that the lack of applicable education, knowledge or expertise of EFSC members render them incapable of making independent assessments of the very technical information provided them, whether by a developer, or by the developer-financed ODOE.

For all of the above reasons, I noted that Oregon's process for making energy-related decisions seems virtually designed to invite manipulation and abuse by outside, corporate interests. And I noted that many decisions made by ODOE and its internal EFSC appear to hold no benefit for Oregon residents, and in fact seem only capable of being explained by the fact that ODOE is dependent on developers for a significant part of its funding.

I reiterate these comments to you because the manipulatable process by which energy siting decisions are made in Oregon is reinforced by the fact that Mr. Jenkins—a frequent and fierce supporter of developers who has a history of questionable ethical behavior in regard to developers—remains on the EFSC despite the fact that he is statutorily ineligible to serve.

I would have made these comments long ago had I been aware of the role of this committee in regard to executive appointments.

I thank you for your consideration of the above information.

Anne Morrison

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