

February 4, 2021

House Committee on Economic Recovery and Prosperity  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Lively and other members of committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony regarding HB 2613. The City of Gresham opposes this legislation due to the impacts on how the City permits utilities in the right-of-way.

While efficient coordination of construction projects during excavation is an admirable goal, the legislation as currently written would increase administrative burden and cost to local jurisdictions. This legislation creates an unfair benefit for telecommunications providers at the expense of all other utilities.

The bill requires notice of excavation and allows providers 30 days to submit a statement of interest. This 30 day requirement could cause undue delay in the development of project, and a potential hardship for every other utility that is not a telecommunication provider. This requirement also creates administrative burden, as there is no guarantee providers will be interested in every construction project. We prefer our local approach to adequately notice utility providers that conduct work in the City.

The bill also requires permit requests from a telecommunications provider to be responded to by a city or county within 72 hours, and all other permit requests for underground facilities to be responded to within 60 days. These timelines prioritize telecommunications providers at the expense of other utilities. These requirements also create additional administrative burdens.

We hope you will consider voting no on HB 2613.

Sincerely,

Brian Monberg  
Government Affairs Manager  
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