

Chair Marsh, Vice Chairs Helm and Brock-Smith:

My name is Irene Gilbert and I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition to SB 589A

I HAVE LONG SUPPORTED THE NEED FOR LONG-TERM PLANNING IN ENERGY DEVELOPMENT. IT IS CLEAR THAT PARTICIPATION IN AN RTO WILL REQUIRE AND ENCOURAGE DEVELOPMENT OF ADDITIONAL TRANSMISSION INFRASTRUCTURE WHICH IS A CONCERN TO ME AND MANY OTHERS. THIS BILL WILL NOT RESULT IN A LEGITIMATE EVALUATION OF THE NEEDS AND PROBLEMS WITH INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT.

FIRST: THE BILL ALLOWS THE OREGON DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY TO CONTROL THE VAST MAJORITY OF THOSE ON THE COMMITTEE. WE ALL UNDERSTAND THAT THE GROUP WHO CONTROLS WHO THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRETTY MUCH CONTROLS THE OUTCOME.

YOU CANNOT BE UNAWARE OF THE ONGOING PROBLEMS WITH THE OUTCOMES FROM THE ENERGY FACILITY SITING COUNCIL DECISIONS WHICH ARE BASED UPON THE OREGON DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY RECOMMENDATIONS. YOU MIGHT WONDER WHY THE OREGON DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY IS WILLING TO RECOMMEND ACTIONS THAT ARE NOT CONSISTENT WITH THEIR OWN RULES AND THE STATUTES.

THE SITING DIVISION IS FUNDED BY BILLING DEVELOPERS FOR THE EXPENSES OF RUNNING THE DIVISION INCLUDING THE COSTS OF PROCESSING APPLICATIONS, AMENDMENTS AND ONGOING BILLINGS FOR EXISTING DEVELOPMENTS. THEY ARE DEPENDENT UPON THIS INCOME STREAM. IT IS CLEARLY IN THE DEPARTMENTS INTEREST TO RECOMMEND MANY NEW DEVELOPMENTS AND INFRASTRUCTURE EXPANSION. THEY TEND TO IGNORE MULTIPLE THINGS WHICH REDUCE

THE NEED FOR NEW DEVELOPMENTS INCLUDING MICROGRIDS, CONSERVATION, ROOFTOP SOLAR AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL NUCLEAR ENERGY SOURCES. THESE ALL REDUCE THE NEED FOR EXTENSIVE TRANSMISSION INFRASTRUCTURE.

SECOND; THOSE WHO ARE SUBJECT TO THE MOST SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS FROM TRANSMISSION LINE STRUCTURES ARE EXCLUDED FROM THE PROCESS. I AM TALKING ABOUT THE OWNERS OF FARM AND FOREST LAND AS WELL AS THOSE WHO LIVE NEAR THESE DEVELOPMENTS WHICH ARE LARGELY PLACED IN EASTERN OREGON.

--THESE ARE THE PEOPLE LOSING CONTROL OF THEIR LAND AND ENVIRONMENT THROUGH EMINENT DOMAIN FORCING THEM TO ACCEPT UNWELCOME TRANSMISSION LINES. THESE ARE THE PEOPLE WHO OVER TIME WILL LOSE MORE AND MORE OF THEIR LAND DUE TO RULES THAT ENCOURAGE ALL UTILITIES TO USE CORRIDORS THAT ARE DEVELOPED TO ACCOMMODATE TRANSMISSION LINES. A FRIEND OF MINE NOW HAS 5 UTILITY CORRIDORS CROSSING HIS LAND, AND IF THE BOARDMAN TO HEMINGWAY TRANSMISSION LINE IS BUILT, HE WILL HAVE SIX.

I URGE YOU TO AMEND THIS BILL TO DO THREE THINGS;

1. REQUIRE AN INDEPENDENT, THIRD PARTY TO MANAGE THESE MEETINGS AND COMPILE THE REPORT.
2. ALLOW THE PARTICIPANT GROUPS TO IDENTIFY THEIR OWN REPRESENTATIVES.
3. ADD REPRESENTATIVES FROM AGRICULTURE, FOREST PRACTICES AND THE PUBLIC AT LARGE TO BE INCLUDED IN THE ADVISORY GROUP.

THERE IS CERTAINLY A NEED TO LOOK AT THE LONG TERM NEED, COSTS AND BENEFITS OF EXPANDING AND COORDINATING THE USE OF

INFRASTRUCTURE, BUT IT NEEDS TO BE DONE WITH A LEGITIMATE PROCESS.

WE NEED TO CONSIDER WHETHER OR NOT OREGON SHOULD BE SACRIFICING OUR LAND AND RESOURCES AND BUILDING TRANSMISSION LINES TO PROVIDE ENERGY TO OTHER STATES. IDAHO POWER CLEARLY STATED IN A MEETING WITH UNION COUNTY COMMISSIONERS THAT THEY WANT THE BOARDMAN TO HEMINGWAY TRANSMISSION LINE SO THEY CAN ACCESS ENERGY FROM BONNEVILLE. OREGON UTILITIES WILL BE COMPETING WITH OTHER STATES WHEN BIDDING FOR ELECTRICITY ON THE OPEN MARKET. OREGON CONSUMERS WILL ALSO BE PAYING A CARBON TAX ON THE ENERGY MOVED INTO THE STATE FROM COAL AND NATURAL GAS ENERGY FACILITIES IN OTHER STATES.