

I am testifying in opposition to HB 2064

Reducing the number of lay people making decisions that will impact the resources and citizens of this state for decades to come is poor public policy and is unnecessary. The state statutes require the governor to appoint a new member to the council immediately when a vacancy occurs and limits the timeframe for participation on the Council to two 4 year terms. Currently, there are two vacancies on the Council. One, was held by Hanley Jenkins. Todd Cornett has chosen to ignore the statute and assign Mr. Jenkins to continue appearing on the council and allowing him to vote absent any legitimate right to do so. If the governor is having difficulty filling these positions, I will be happy to fill in until she is able to fill Mr. Jenkins slot. The public has dealt with this individual for over 8 years and it is time to give us a break. Mr. Jenkins was investigated by the Oregon Department of Justice and received a Letter of Reprimand due to destroying public records regarding a wind development and went on to chair the council!!

These appointed positions require no prior knowledge, skills or ability. The council now has two women who appear to take their jobs seriously, an individual who's prior experience is working for family owned businesses, a Land Use Consultant and a woman who works as what appears to be a support assistant for an electricians union (IBEW 125) pension fund and functions as secretary for PacifiCorp and the electricians union health program.

Rather than allowing even fewer lay people to make decisions that are being controlled by Todd Cornett's Department, this Committee should be addressing the need to require the people on the council to have some expertise in assessing the recommendations coming from the Oregon Department of Energy. The lack of knowledge is reflected in council decisions such as allowing a developer to maintain a bond of only \$1 to protect the public from having to restore a site to a useful, non hazardous condition, deciding that having a transmission line run within 127 feet of the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center is not a significant impact, failing to consider impacts to federally protected and listed Threatened and Endangered Species, allowing a noise variance over a 300 mile transmission line that will allow noise impacts of double the DEQ noise standard, failing to require developers to monitor and control noxious weeds along the transmission line for the life of the project and only requiring control of some noxious weeds, failing to require the developer to assume responsibility for fire protection equipment and staff to address transmission line fires, etc.

Is it any wonder that the public is fed up with the rubber stamping of recommendations from the Oregon Department of Energy? Non-profit environmental groups who have traditionally supported the Oregon Department of Energy and Energy Facility Siting Council are bringing more and more issues before the Oregon Supreme Court due to the abuses of Power occurring within the ranks of the department and the council.

I ask you to refuse to send this bill out of committee, and instead amend it to actually address some of the issues that have been brewing for years.