

February 23, 2021

Representative Barbara Smith Warner, Chair  
House Committee On Rules  
Oregon State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: HB 2064-Oppose

Dear Chair Barbara Smith Warner and members of the Rules Committee,

We strongly urge you to vote no at reducing the quorum size of EFSC from five to read "a majority of the members of the council constitutes a quorum." as proposed in HB 2064

The work of EFSC is far too important to reduce the size of the quorum to less than five. The decisions this body makes impacts people throughout our entire state. A proper number of individuals deliberating our future are needed in order to sort through the complex issues and decisions that need to be made by this council. Imagine a group of less than 5 people, deciding that the 300 mile 500 kV transmission line through 5 eastern Oregon counties or a wind farm on 11,000 acres being sited by so few. This is not good policy in my opinion.

The council currently has [6 members](#) one whose term has expired leaving 5 members if they leave. This rewrite will allow 3 people to make significant decisions about our state, if the expired term commissioner leaves. They have more power than the Oregon House and the Senate and need proper oversight. If they are having problems recruiting new volunteer members maybe the structure of the council and ODOE needs to be re-thought. It is a tremendous burden and responsibility to place on volunteers. I can only imagine the number of hours they have to put in to be knowledgeable of the projects before them.

In fact the work of the council and ODOE has come under criticism over the past years and we believe that the design of ODOE and EFSC is inefficient and needs to be redesigned. We would like to suggest that you or the appropriate body form a special task force to evaluate ODOE and EFSC. Their charge would be to look at more effective models of working possibly like the Oregon Public Utility Commission. There are three professional commissioners appointed by the governor and the body of the public utility commission supporting the commissioners with an executive director. ODOE and EFSC have it the other way around, with a staff that is often perceived as telling the council what to do because they have the knowledge that the volunteer members of the council do not possess.

In any case we urge you to vote no at changing the quorum requirements for EFSC in HB 2064.



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