

February 25, 2021

Greetings Members of the House Committee on Energy and Environment:

For the record, my name is Lynnae Ruttledge. My husband and I have been property owners and active members of the coastal community of Tierra Del Mar (south Tillamook County) since 1992. We value and appreciate the leadership of our State Representative David Gomberg on the issues addressed with HB 2603.

Our coastal community has been Ground Zero since December 2018 for the Facebook/Edge Cable fiber optic cable project. Our community has been steadfastly unified in our opposition to the permitting of this industrial project, sited purposefully in the midst of our tiny residential community. We have participated in and provided testimony, raised serious questions, and voiced our concerns at each of the public hearings conducted by the permitting agencies. We have had to stand by as the project catastrophically failed in April 2020 and then the impact that followed. We only learned the extent of the drilling failure and of Facebook's decision to not timely notify the permitting agencies of the abandonment of the drilling equipment from an email from a state agency in late July 2020. We have had to stand by as the permitting agencies allowed Facebook/Edge Cable to come back to "try again" in January 2021. To date, there is little evidence of Facebook/Edge Cable adhering to the principles of being good partners to local residents or good stewards of the environment.

Frankly, Oregon must be better than this.

I am writing in support of HB 2603. It provides the foundation for the needed broader discussion on siting criteria, effective oversight by the permitting agencies and a commitment that the landing of fiber optic cables is more than a business transaction.

I would like to echo the comments in the letter provided by State Treasurer Read: "... companies seeking to site projects on our shores and in our communities must be good partners to local residents and good stewards of our environment." House Bill 2603 is an important first step in addressing the types of issues that our State has faced as a result of the multiple failures by Facebook/Edge Cable with the Jupiter Cable project.

In closing, it was my honor to present testimony September 24, 2020 before the House Interim Committee on Energy and Environment on the impact of Facebook's failed project on our coastal community. Please let me know if you have questions about the testimony.

Kind regards,

Lynnae M. Ruttledge

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