

February 1, 2021

Representative Pam Marsh, Chair
House Committee on Energy and Environment
Oregon State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Re: HB 2475-Support

Chair Marsh, Vice-Chair Smith, Vice-Chair Helm and members of the Committee,

My name is Jim Kreider and I live in La Grande, Oregon -- the NE section of our beautiful state. I am co-chair of the [STOP B2H Coalition](#) a nonprofit with over 800 members from eastern Oregon working to prevent the siting of the unnecessary Boardman to Hemingway Transmission (B2H) line which is a 300 mile long 500 kV line proposed to run through 5 eastern Oregon counties.

I am also an appointed member of the State of Oregon's Environmental Justice Task Force (EJTF) representing eastern Oregon. However, today I am speaking on my own behalf.

HB 2475 has many positive attributes as you've heard here today. I only wish that 25% of the electric customers of the state could share in these benefits when it passes. I regret to inform the committee that customers of customer-owned utilities (COU's) which are Electric Co-op's, Public Utilities Districts (PUD's) or municipal owned utilities will not see these benefits. Additionally Oregon's Idaho Power customers (including all the people of Malheur County and half of Baker County) will not see these benefits either. Basically, most of rural Oregon will not benefit from this when passed. Why?

As a member of the work group on Senate Bill 978 which was for the purpose of investigating how developing industry trends, technologies, and policy drivers in the electricity sector might impact the existing regulatory system and incentives currently employed by the commission, we found that many of us living in rural areas were left out and left behind. The OPUC does not regulate customer-owned utilities (COU's). Additionally Oregon's Idaho Power customers will not see these benefits either.

A primary example is that we cannot take advantage of the Energy Trust of Oregon's programs. Why are the populations of rural Oregon -- and, essentially all of Eastern Oregon -- being left behind?

I understand that there is the belief that locally-governed peoples' utility districts and electric cooperatives can best serve their customers. However, there needs to be an overarching statewide energy policy including all electric customers in order for the state to meet its long term energy goals. I ask that you find a way to allow all customers of COU's and Idaho Power to equally benefit from this fine bill. Please pass HB 2475.

Thank you

Jim Kreider
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