

March 28, 2023

To: Chairman Helm  
House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources and Water

From: Alan Hickenbottom  
Latitude45 Associates and board member of Community Renewable Energy Association

Re: Testimony in favor of HB3181

Chairman Helm, members of the committee – thank you for the opportunity to write in favor of HB3181.

In 2021, the Oregon legislature passed HB2021, a bill designed to push Oregon towards a clean energy future. While the bill's goals are very important to the state's future as a climate leader, it left open many important questions around project siting. The state will see an unprecedented number of renewable energy projects sited on the coming decades – with the associated needs for new transmission capacity. It will require balance between Oregon's vaunted land use rules and the need to quickly and comprehensively site these new carbon-free energy resources.

HB3181 is designed to address many of these important questions. These include support in continuing the conversation in a more formal setting and the need for a comprehensive look at siting of Renewable Energy and Transmission to meet state energy policy/mandates. It has become abundantly clear that siting is extremely complex and there is a critical need to find a durable, long term solution to this process. HB3181 will be an important step in that direction. I would urge the committee to support the bill.

Thank you.