



March 31, 2023

To: Representative Ken Helm, Chair, House Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water Committee
Representative Annessa Hartman, Vice-Chair, House Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water Committee
Representative Mark Owens, Vice-Chair, House Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water Committee
Members of the House Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water Committee

From: Diane Brandt, Oregon State Director, Renewable Northwest

Re: **Support for HB 3181-1**

Oral Testimony as Prepared for Delivery on March 30, 2023

Chair Helm, Vice Chair Hartman, Vice Chair Owens, Members of the Committee;

For the record, my name is Diane Brandt and I am the Oregon State Director at Renewable Northwest. Renewable Northwest is a nonprofit that advocates for the responsible decarbonization of the electricity grid and we have a membership that ranges from renewable energy industry including a wide group of large and medium developers and supporting industry and services, and other non profits including environmental and consumer advocates.

I am here today to offer support for HB3181-1 which is the result of a renewable energy siting policy discussion that Renewable Northwest co-convoked with Verde and 1000 Friends of Oregon since August with a large group of stakeholders - we've called it "the siting table."

As an organization, we see siting of renewable energy and transmission in Oregon as a central, urgent aspect of realizing the state's energy and GHG emissions reductions policies and mandates. HB 3181-1 is a reflection of the conversations at the siting table and is the logical next step to move this work to a formalized space with resources and clear timelines in support of moving forward on figuring the complexities of siting. We support this approach, because we believe that the diversity of interests at the table, if agreement is reached, will move us closer to a durable, long term solution for balancing the complexities and tradeoffs in siting renewable energy and transmission in Oregon.

The -1 amendment - which is not yet posted - is reflective of months of dynamic conversations. The process set out in HB3181-1 proposes a comprehensive, inclusive approach that can accommodate a state-wide look at renewable energy and transmission, that can balance the critical need for renewable energy siting with other critical state goals. It ensures that the communities affected by siting have a role in the policy deliberation, creates a structure for stakeholder input through public comment, establishes an advisory committee, and directs resources to counties and to Tribes to participate and support related work.

RNW fully supports the approach outlined in the forthcoming -1 amendment. Speed and demonstrated progress is very important and we support a timeline of December 2024. We also recognize that siting of renewable energy is needed now, and support shorter term, interim consensus solutions that can help projects move forward in support of meeting Oregon's renewable energy mandates and targets.