



Chair Sollman, Vice Chair Findley, members of the Senate Energy and Environment Committee.

I appreciate the opportunity to address the committee this afternoon regarding House Bill 4015, a bill that would allow for standalone battery energy storage systems to be sited by the Energy Facility Siting Council if either the Developer or the local government chooses to defer.

First, I would like to officially thank Representative Marsh for including Counties during the interim workgroup in discussing the purpose and potential language found in this bill. Not only myself but also Commissioner Williams of Lake County served on this workgroup, and counties greatly appreciate the opportunity to engage on this subject and weigh in from a technical standpoint how the process could or should work from our perspective.

House Bill 4015 can be broken down into 3 key sections, each of equal importance. First is a definition of a Battery Energy Storage System. The second, states a separate site certificate is not required for a Battery Energy Storage System if “such related or supporting facilities are addressed in and are subject to a site certificate for another facility.” And finally, the ability for a developer or a local government to pass the application on to the Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC) if either party believes they need to be the regulatory authority deciding on the project.

This last section was one counties actively pursued during the workgroup meetings. There are some counties where the entire planning department is one individual. It is entirely possible that that individual does not have the time, resources, or capacity to process one of these applications when it is made. We know energy will be necessary when a disaster strikes. Furthermore, the ability to store said energy will be crucial in working through anything that disaster causes. Counties do not want to be the ones responsible for prohibiting these systems from being developed and working with EFSC to get them permitted will be a great help.

Counties can play an integral role in achieving our energy goals and, through the passage of House Bill 4015, Oregon’s Energy Facility Siting Council can as well.

We look forward to partnering with the state to ensure Battery Energy Systems are not only sited, but operational.

**The Association of Oregon Counties is in support of HB 4015 and urge this committee’s passage.**

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