

House Committee on Climate, Energy and the Environment
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem Oregon 97301

March 24, 2025

RE: HB 3422 OPPOSED

Dear Chair Lively, Vice-chairs Gamba and Levy, and members of the committee,

The Hilderbrand family has been farming in Sherman County since the late 1880's and continues to this day. While I farm, I have also installed a wind turbine project (6 turbines / 9 MWs) on our farm that I own and operate. And the planning process has commenced for 3 MW of solar generation facility with the battery storage that will be integrated with my wind turbines.

Our farm does not have the benefit of irrigation, nor does it have the natural precipitation as many other areas in Western and Eastern Oregon. Our area averages 8-10 inches of precipitation yearly. Therefore, we are limited to soft white winter wheat production on a summer fallow basis, i.e. one crop every two years. The wheat is sold almost exclusively to Asia. Where we are under increased competition with the emergence of the BRICS coalition (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) economic bloc. With cash bids delivered to Portland of \$5.90 - \$6.10 / bushel and production costs significantly higher, the family farm on my side of the mountains is under a direct threat to survive. Farmers in Eastern Oregon need to diversify to survive. However, for myself and other Eastern Oregon farmers who want to diversify with renewable energy HB 3422 cuts off alternatives to us. We are opposed to HB 3422.

HB 3422 further solidifies, as many in Sherman County perceive, a continuing "taking" of our land by the Oregon legislature. As farmers we know how we can utilize our land to its most productive potential and preserve the land's agricultural productivity for future generations. HB 3422 just adds additional roadblocks to our paths to diversify.

HB 3422 requires the EFSC exception process (Goal 3 Exception for example) to be opened up by allowing other parties outside the project area to tell me how I should use my land. We have an approval process in place, don't make the process even more burdensome by passing HB 3422.

Thank you for the opportunity and I and others look forward to resolving Oregon's energy crisis. Just let us. Please do not allow HB 3422 to proceed.

Regards



Ormand Hilderbrand

Wasco, Oregon