

HB 4031 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Rep. Owens

House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Action Date: 02/10/26

Action: Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 10-1-0

Yea: 10 - Edwards, Gamba, Helm, Levy B, Levy E, Lively, Marsh, McDonald, Osborne, Owens

Nays: 1 - Cate

Exc: 1 - Andersen

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Erin Pischke, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/3, 2/10

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure exempts an energy facility from needing a site certificate from the Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC) in specified cases. This includes if the energy facility produces power from a renewable energy source, if its construction begins on or before December 31, 2028, and it comes into service by December 31, 2030, and if it qualifies for certain federal renewable energy tax credits. The measure takes effect on the 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- County renewable energy facility siting process
- Potential impact of renewable energy facilities on farmland

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

The amendment modifies the qualifications for a facility to be exempt from needing a site certificate from EFSC under ORS 469.320.

BACKGROUND:

In October and November 2025, Oregon Governor Tina Kotek issued two executive orders related to clean energy development. Executive Order (EO) 25-25 targets accelerating wind and solar energy development before federal clean energy tax credits are eliminated. It directs the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) and EFSC to “identify process changes within existing statutory authority that... would be of greatest assistance to meeting the deadline for federal tax credits and determine the feasibility of making those changes consistent” with EO 25-25.

EO 25-29 relates to “reducing greenhouse gas emissions and advancing the state’s clean energy future.” It declares that reliable clean energy and related infrastructure are necessary to enable sustained economic growth and meet rising energy demands. In part, EO 25-29 directs executive branch agencies to support investment in and deployment of clean electricity infrastructure. It also directs agencies to take actions to “develop and implement a coordinated, proactive approach to streamline land use and environmental reviews, siting and permitting, and interconnection processes for clean energy projects, energy storage, and associated transmission and distribution infrastructure.” ODOE, the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), the Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI), and the Public Utility Commission (PUC) are specifically tasked with “evaluating and recommending actions to update renewable energy siting and permitting processes.”

In November 2025, ODOE published its Oregon Energy Strategy. The strategy anticipates rapidly growing electricity demand, requiring a major expansion of transmission, generation, and distribution infrastructure to meet future needs.