



February 6, 2026

To: Representative Daniel Nguyen, Chair, House Committee on Economic Development, Small Business and Trade
Representative Shannon Isadore, Vice Chair, House Committee on Economic Development, Small Business and Trade
Representative Alek Skarlatos, Vice Chair, House Committee on Economic Development, Small Business and Trade
Members of the House Committee on Economic Development, Small Business and Trade

From: Diane Brandt, Policy & Legislative Affairs Director, Renewable Northwest

Re: Support for HB 4084 - Connection to Oregon's Energy Future

Chair Nguyen, Vice Chair Isadore, Vice Chair Skarlatos, and Members of the Committee;

Renewable Northwest ("RNW") is a regional clean energy advocacy nonprofit based in Oregon, dedicated to decarbonizing the electricity grid by accelerating the transition to clean energy resources. Our members include renewable energy and storage developers and businesses, environmental organizations, and consumer advocates. Thank you for the opportunity to offer our **support for HB 4084 which would create a Joint Permitting Council to identify projects for permitting fast track in support of Oregon's economic development.**

As Oregon looks for ways to encourage economic growth in the state - and providing for predictable and time-bound permitting is an essential piece - it is worth remembering that at the heart of driving economic growth is reliable and affordable electricity. The state is at a pivotal moment with regards to the electricity infrastructure that serves it: the transmission system is at capacity, clean generation projects are facing headwinds with federal policy changes and the existing state land use and permitting complexities, and the region is facing an urgent moment for getting more generation projects online in order to sustain a reliable system. As this bill moves forward and is discussed, the role of electricity generation and infrastructure projects must be part of the discussion.



The current language of HB 4084 offers flexibility around which types of projects could be considered for fast-track permitting under the guidance of a Joint Permitting Council. While this does not replace or duplicate the current permitting processes at the county levels or at the Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC), it does offer a layer of support and visibility that could benefit some of the more complicated energy projects that will be necessary to unlock electricity access that will drive new business and industry in the state. Building business and industry without the power to run it would not only miss the goal of this bill, but place even more pressure on our current grid's reliability.

We appreciate the opportunity to offer these comments in **support of HB 4084 and urge the bill to keep its inclusive approach to considering projects that will look comprehensively at all the permitting needs across industries.**