

Submitter: Representative Mark Owens
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4076
Chair Sollman and Members of the Committee:

In advance of the hearing on HB 4076 and the Dash-A2 amendment, I submit this testimony to provide some clarifications.

First, the intent is for HB 4076-A2 to apply to a broad range of renewable energy facilities that can rely on surplus interconnection capacity. We have urgent deadlines to obtain federal energy tax credits and to achieve existing Oregon statutory benchmarks, and we should be using surplus capacity on the electrical grid as much as possible.

I am proposing that the Dash-2 amendment move forward today simply for expediency during this short legislative session. But I want to be sure that the policy position and legislative intent is clearly stated now.

We want to ensure that projects across the state can benefit from this concept and that it is not limited only to previously constructed facilities permitted through EFSC or the existing capacity of those facilities. That is not the intent. This Amendment is intended to apply to all projects in an equitable manner, whether they are existing or proposed under an interconnection agreement, and whether they go through the county or EFSC permitting process. The goal is to accelerate projects and capitalize on the state's available interconnection capacity regardless of the permitting pathway or development status, within reason.

Whether this amendment delivers on that promise is yet to be determined, but for expediency of this short legislative session, this is the language we have to work with.

If the language in the Dash-2 Amendment does not achieve the intent, we are committed to passing a technical amendment in the 2027 session to ensure that the concept is not inadvertently limited by the language.

Thank you for considering HB 4076-A2.

Sincerely,
Representative Mark Owens
Oregon House District 60