

Representative Phil Barnhart

P R E S S R E L E A S E



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Barnhart Praises Cancellation of Plant Application

Coburg – Black Hills Generation Inc. has withdrawn its application to the Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC) to build the West Cascade Energy Facility near Coburg. State Representative Phil Barnhart (D – Central Lane and Linn Counties) called the cancellation of the application a victory for Lane County.

“There is no need for additional fossil fuel generation in the Willamette Valley,” said Barnhart. “The state of Oregon is already amply prepared to site fossil fuel plants in the foreseeable future. Now is the time to prioritize renewable energy sources.”

Many Lane County citizens complained about the siting process because they felt that the Council gave them inadequate opportunity for input. Their concerns convinced Barnhart to introduce HB 3135, along with Rep. Bill Garrard (R- Klamath Falls) and Senators Bill Morrisette (D – Springfield) and Doug Whitsett (R – Klamath Falls).

The bill has already passed out of the House Land Use Committee, and now awaits action in House Environment, of which both Barnhart and Garrard are members. “Citizens must have a voice when the EFSC is considering siting a polluting energy facility in their neighborhood,” said Barnhart. “We have fought hard to overcome special interest opposition to this legislation. We are pleased with today’s announcement from the company, which appears to have come to understand that Oregonians are serious about conservation and renewable sources for electricity.”