

Representative Phil Barnhart

**P R E S S   R E L E A S E**



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## House Committee Passes Oregon Fair Energy Act Bill would require local land use input into energy facility siting

SALEM – The House Land Use Committee today passed HB 3135, as amended, which will reduce the Energy Facility Siting Council’s (EFSC) power plant super-siting authority by increasing local input into siting applications that violate land use laws. The bill has bipartisan support, including Republican and Democratic sponsors in both the House and Senate, but it also has powerful special interest opponents, including Portland General Electric and Associated Oregon Industries.

“Citizens must have a voice when the EFSC is considering siting a polluting energy facility in their neighborhood,” said Rep. Phil Barnhart, one of the bill’s chief sponsors. “We have fought hard to overcome special interest opposition to this legislation.”

HB 3135 would give local governments the authority to negotiate with EFSC when siting applications violate their land use laws. Currently, EFSC has the complete authority to overrule local land use laws when considering applications for siting approval.

The Land Use Committee amended HB 3135 to also create an energy planning task force, including representatives from utilities, the environmental community, and the Oregon Department of Energy. “This task force will be critical for ensuring long-term sustainable energy production” said Lisa Arkin, Executive Director of Oregon Toxics Alliance, and joint author of the amendment with Rep. Phil Barnhart.

The bill will now head to the House Environment Committee, before proceeding to the full House of Representatives.