

State Representative
Cliff Bentz
House District 60

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CONTACT: Representative Cliff Bentz
503-986-1460



Rep. Bentz Seeks Increased Consistency, Transparency, and Local Involvement in Energy Siting

SALEM – On, April 2, Representative Cliff Bentz (R-Ontario) carried House Bill 2105-A on the floor of the Oregon House. This bill requires the Oregon Department of Energy’s Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC) to study and report to the legislature on its power line and energy facility siting process.

Current EFSC review is subject to multi-layered standards imposed by the federal government, the State of Oregon, and local authorities. The bill directs EFSC to study the current process and recommend changes to improve efficiency and collaboration between agencies and local authorities, while providing greater opportunity for public involvement.

In Rep. Bentz’s opinion, the complexity of the siting process provides inadequate opportunity for local landowners to actively participate in the process. “Finding better ways for local citizens to understand and participate in the design and siting of energy facilities will help protect landowners,” Rep. Bentz stated. “This bill provides those interested in improving the current process with a great opportunity. The Council and other regulatory bodies must appreciate the interests of landowners and give meaningful consideration to their comments. Managed appropriately, Oregon will have a better and more responsible siting process.”

HB 2105-A passed unanimously out of the House Committee on Energy and Environment on March 26 and the full House on April 2. It will be sent to the Senate for consideration.

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900 Court St. NE, H-475 Salem, OR 97301
rep.cliffbentz@state.or.us 503-986-1460