



OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

April 24, 2025

Timothy G. Sekerak
Chief Clerk of the House
State Capitol Building
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chief Clerk Tim Sekerak,

Vote Explanation for House Bill 3681 A - Engrossed

In order to uphold my commitment to my constituents in the Stafford Hamlet and surrounding communities, I voted no on House Bill 3681-A.

First and foremost, I believe that public access to government processes must be a top priority - an issue I have been deeply engaged in through my work with ODOT on tolling. I am gravely concerned about transparency and accessibility, and ensuring that Oregonians have the opportunity to express their concerns, especially when it comes to projects that pose potential environmental and safety risks, like transmission lines.

Notably, Portland General Electric (PGE), a for-profit corporation accountable to shareholders, has significantly raised utility rates over the past several years. Granting them the power to condemn land - potentially over the objections of impacted communities - is egregious. This concern is particularly acute in areas like Forest Park and in my own district with the Tonquin Project. The removal of trees in cherished green spaces, vital carbon sinks, is counterproductive to our state's climate goals. While clean energy transmission is critical, it must not come at the cost of our natural environment and the voices of those who live in it.

HB 3681-A directly impacts the Tonquin Project and the proposed transmission lines in my district. While I recognize the need to modernize our transmission infrastructure, I cannot support a bill that enables land condemnation in wildfire-prone areas with no public water access, and that threatens the character and safety of communities I represent.

For these reasons, I respectfully voted

Thank you.

JULES WALTERS
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 37



OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Jules Walters
Representative Jules Walters

