



March 27, 2023

To House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

From: Oregon Association of Conservation Districts

Re: **Support HB 3181 – Renewable Energy and Transmission Siting**

Chair Helm and Committee Members,

The Oregon Association of Conservation Districts (OACD) represents Oregon's 45 Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs), special districts governed by elected boards. The Districts protect and enhance soil quality, water quality and quantity, and habitat by supporting voluntary conservation in partnership with private landowners and managers as well as federal, state, and nonprofit partners.

OACD supports HB 3181 which will establish a work group to examine renewable energy and transmission project siting. In 2022 a large group of stakeholders convened over many months to become educated and explore opportunities on this subject. The discussion was productive, but more effort is needed to develop a clear path forward. We believe that HB 3181 is a logical next step.

We are aware that work on -1 amendments is in progress. We understand that the -1 amendments will be designed with a similar purpose and intent as the introduced version of the bill, but with some more refined language. While we cannot provide detailed comments on the -1 amendment until it is published, we look forward to its arrival and anticipate that it will provide a good path forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stan Dean".

Stan Dean, Advocacy Committee Chair
Oregon Association of Conservation Districts
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