

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Jim Mongeon, and I am testifying in strong opposition to House Bill 1258. This bill threatens local control by allowing state regulators and energy developers to override community zoning and land-use decisions, particularly for electric transmission projects.

Our local governments and residents should have the final say on where and how energy infrastructure is built in our communities. However, this bill gives energy companies a legal path to bypass local restrictions by claiming they are “unreasonably restrictive.” This unfairly favors corporations over the people who actually live in these areas.

Additionally, the bill sets an unreasonable timeline for local governments to respond to transmission projects. If they fail to submit zoning requirements within a short window, their rules are automatically disregarded. This puts communities at a serious disadvantage and limits meaningful public input.

Furthermore, the retroactive nature of this bill creates legal uncertainty and could negatively impact ongoing projects where local governments and residents believed they had protections.

I urge you to **reject House Bill 1258 and protect the rights of local communities** to have a voice in decisions that affect their land, homes, and quality of life.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jim Mongeon