

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Barb Mothershead, and I am strongly opposed to House Bill 1258 because it undermines private property rights and local control.

This bill allows state regulators and energy developers to override local zoning laws and land-use decisions, stripping communities of their right to determine what happens on their own land. Property owners could be forced to accept transmission lines on or near their land, even if local governments had rules in place to prevent it. That is a direct attack on property rights.

Local governments are best equipped to make decisions that reflect the needs and values of their communities. However, this bill gives energy companies the ability to bypass local restrictions by arguing that they are “unreasonably restrictive.” This unfairly shifts power away from the people who live and work in these communities and hands it to corporations.

Furthermore, forcing local governments to meet short deadlines to protect their zoning laws—while allowing the state to override them—makes it nearly impossible for communities to defend their land-use policies. This bill sets a dangerous precedent for future state overreach.

I urge you to stand up for private property rights and local decision-making by voting against House Bill 1258.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barb Mothershead". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Barb Mothershead