

PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICE
WASCO COUNTY

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September 9, 1996

Mike Katz, Chairman
Energy Facility Siting Task Force
1600 SW Fourth Avenue
Suite 770
Portland, OR 97201

SUBJECT: Association of Oregon County Planning Directors support of current process for
Energy Facility Site Certification.

Dear Mr. Katz:

The Association of Oregon County Planning Directors took the opportunity to review and discuss the issues raised in your July 16, 1996 letter to state agencies. In particular, we discussed the issues relative to local land use planning.

The consensus among County Planning Directors is to support the current process whereby the Energy Facility Siting Council has authority to issue Site Certificates. The Association traditionally advocates local control however, since the current site certification process incorporates local land use criteria and a two-step property owner notification procedure, we support the status quo EFSC siting process. The Association also recognizes the EFSC and Oregon Department of Energy staff are better equipped to process highly technical applications for energy facilities. This last comment is particularly true when considering the dynamic regulatory condition of the energy industry as a whole, and the need to look statewide when considering energy development.

Regarding the matter of the size and type of facilities that should be included under EFSC purview, the Association also supports the current threshold level of 25 MW. The land use impacts and statewide significance are not diminutive relative to the size of the facility.

The Association would also like to request the Task Force include in their recommendations to the Governor's Office that a model ordinance be developed for use by local governments. A model energy facility siting ordinance would help local governments to better understand the energy facilities in all their complexity. And, prepare local governments to more effectively participate in the state process and respond to local siting issues with greater knowledge.

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On behalf of the Association of Oregon County Planning Directors, thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



Kimberly J. Jacobsen, Director
Wasco County Planning

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c: R. Scott Pemble, President AOC PD
Tamra Mabbott, Morrow County Planning Director
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