From: Anne March

To: <u>PUC PUC.FilingCenter * PUC</u>

Subject: AR 626 – Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity

Date: Monday, August 15, 2022 3:13:46 PM

To: OPUC members

8/15/22

I am in opposition of "fast tracking" utility companies' desire to take legal action against landowners in order to secure land needed for their projects. I live in Union County and am aghast and extremely saddened to learn that OPUC is considering allowing companies to bypass existing regulations regarding Eminent Domain. What, in the world (besides bullying by corporations that are looking out for shareholder profits), is the reason for that?

Please require them to abide by existing regulations governing eminent domain and to fully explore and prove that they are not degrading quality of life of people, families and communities in the paths of their projects. Lives of Oregonians stand to be forever altered, and this is something that no one should take lightly. Please don't take this lightly and allow this to happen.

Please require these companies to go through the process of truthfully examining cumulative impacts on communities in the areas of health and safety, and on the unique and beautiful lands/wildlife in our beautiful state.

Please require them to prove that future economic development in areas that their projects pass through will not suffer.

Please require them to take the time to fully acknowledge the economic burdens that will be placed on unknowing persons as well as unwilling persons who are not able to pay the daunting legal fees to defend their homes and their lands.

Please consider the taking of land through Eminent Domain as a last resort, not as a "given" as utility companies are requesting.

Sincerely,

Anne March 206 Main Avenue La Grande, OR 97850