

POWELL BUTTE LETTER OF PROTEST TO PACIFICORP

June 30, 2025

To: PacifiCorp
Attn: John Aniello, Sr. Project Manager
Email: John.Aniello@PacifiCorp.com

cc: Carla Scarsella, Esq., VP & General Counsel
Email: Carla.Scarsella@PacifiCorp.com

This letter submits public comment on behalf of over [] property owners of Powell Butte to express our forceful opposition to PacifiCorp's proposed 500kV transmission line project called "Blueprint South". This community opposes all routes Blueprint South would take in Crook County.

The Blueprint South transmission line creates many negative impacts and risks to Powell Butte, with important ones being:

- Proposed "Route D" crosses over and takes 10 miles of prime Powell Butte farm and ranch land with 160-180 foot steel towers (17-stories high) and high-voltage transmission lines, to connect to a new substation near Redmond, Oregon, in Deschutes County. This project **will forever damage or even destroy existing homes and businesses, compromise irrigation rights and practices, and crush property values**. PacifiCorp's "proposed" route maps for Blueprint South are already affecting property values and the ability to sell property.
- The proposed Blueprint South transmission line routes do not connect in Crook County. PacifiCorp's current plan is to cross over Powell Butte property, affecting our rights and land, and **not even bring power to Crook County**.
- To actually bring power or connect to Crook County solar projects, PacifiCorp **would have to install even more power lines** across Powell Butte that are not shown anywhere in its Blueprint South project information. More towers, more power lines, more farm and ranch land taken.
- PacifiCorp has hidden from the community that Blueprint South is only part of its transmission superhighway plans. PacifiCorp for years has told regulatory authorities it intends to build Blueprint North, **another** 500kV line with 17-story towers that could cross Powell Butte and Crook County and go to Boardman, Oregon. PacifiCorp has not told our communities or local leaders about Blueprint North or its plans to take more land in Crook County for **yet another 500kV transmission line** east, to eastern Oregon, Idaho, Utah, and Wyoming.
- We oppose the location of these transmission lines near our homes and ranches due to health concerns for our citizens and animals. These transmission lines can pose a risk from arcing and electric shock. Also, studies have shown living in close proximity to high voltage power lines can create health issues, including **increased cancer rates, especially in children**.
- This community is already burdened with 500kV transmission lines, and we can attest that the crackling is incessant and can make living near them unbearable.

- We agree with the public comments of the Sundance neighborhood in Bend that ***transmission lines pose serious dangers from increased fire risks***. Powell Butte and surrounding areas are prone to drought and high winds, and the proposed routes are right over homes, ranches, and businesses. We could also face ***increased costs of homeowners insurance rates or even loss of coverage***.
- The tall lattice towers pose ***danger and risk of life to native and migrating birds*** who depend on north and south Houston Lake.
- PacifiCorp will take our property and quality of life and then try to pass the cost of building their multibillion-dollar transmission line superhighway to our communities. Rates could go up for PacifiCorp **AND** CEC customers.

PacifiCorp should head down Highway 126 to see what the Powell Butte community is about. We live, work, and raise our children here because we are the "*Home good crops, good stock & good neighbors*". Your Blueprint South project will take that away from us and make us the land of huge steel towers and crisscrossing transmission lines, which only grow in numbers over the years across our cherished community.

WE SAY NO!

Sincerely,

[Names and addresses of everyone joining the letter]