

Top Ten Reasons to Stop B2H

Boardman to Hemingway (B2H) Transmission Project
a proposed 300 mile invasive 500 kV transmission line across Eastern Oregon



#1. It's NOT Needed:

- Idaho's population is growing, but energy consumption is flat just like the rest of the country.
- Idaho is finally building their own renewable resources and creating local jobs.
- Existing lines should be upgraded, re-conducted, and fire-hardened before building new lines.

#2. It's an Economic Issue:

- Ratepayers will be on the hook for 30+ years because utilities are guaranteed a capital rate of return and profit by state public utility commissions (costs: \$1.2 billion, in 2016 estimates).
- Those least able to pay will be hurt the most as more people go solar and defect from the grid.
- Farmers, timber owners will lose economic value and inherit hassles in their operations.

#3. It's an Environmental Issue:

- 300 miles 250'-wide clearcut for 1200 towers will destabilize soils, interfere with ground water movement and domestic wells and increase invasive weeds.
- Riparian and protected areas diminished or destroyed.
- 118,095 tons of cement for tower footings blasted down 40 feet deep, fragment underground ecosystems, in addition to above-ground damages.

#4. It's a Wildlife and Endangered Species Issue:

- Sage grouse populations are facing extinction, and B2H lines will create perches for predators and electrocute large raptors.
- Wildlife corridors, big game habitat, and protected fish and mammal habitats will be damaged and fragmented, putting species at risk.
- Rare and native plants and animals, most abundant in the Blue Mountains, will lose viability.

#5. It's a Historical Preservation Issue:

- The best and last remaining remnants of the historic Oregon Trail are in Eastern Oregon—they need protection. The Oregon Trail should never become an Idaho Transmission Trail.
- The trail will be traversed at least eight times, with great risk of destruction; once destroyed it can never be brought back. Preserve our heritage!
- The views of the pioneers and our grand scenic valleys will be marred, including the renowned viewscape of the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center and museum.

#6. It's a Security Issue:

- A centralized grid is vulnerable to storms and hacking from domestic or international terror groups, with devastating effects. Decentralized distribution can allow disconnection.
- Wildfire risk is increased with electric transmission, and most local fire departments lack the firefighters and specialized equipment needed to fight wildfires.
- Many areas along the B2H would require upward of 45 minutes for fire departments to respond.

More reasons →

SIGN UP to STOP B2H! www.stopb2h.org

#7. It's a Climate Issue:

- Over 7,000 acres of vegetation (timber and rangelands) will be removed, releasing carbon.
- In addition, the creation and blading of over 400 miles of access roads will become a permanent arid swath that can never sequester carbon again.
- Soils will be forever degraded losing their productivity and value as carbon sinks.

#8. It's a Corporate Profit-Grab & Corporate "Green-Washing" Issue:

- Private electric companies will make millions on the construction of B2H, and they will profit into perpetuity on wholesale transmission tariffs. This is big business for them!
- Renewables do not need more transmission lines; they can be generated, distributed and used, locally and regionally. Long distance transmission line energy losses range 12-20%.
- Idaho Power is slow to embrace trends such as digital technology, solar generation, energy storage, and industrial steam capture.

#9. It's a Property Rights Issue:

- "Land takings"-- over 75% of the proposed line is on private lands, which means a government-sanctioned land grab in the form of eminent domain.
- Property values will be reduced; homeowners/landowners will suffer a direct and permanent economic loss. B2H will become a utility corridor; once created, more are encouraged.
- No amount of money can compensate for the permanent loss of quality of life. This loss affects the public as well, who recreate and enjoy the open-sky viewsheds of our region.

#10. It's a Public Safety Issue:

- Blasting and construction in known geologic hazard zones will damage homes, could create landslides, relocate/change radon gas release, and change community water supply/flow.
- High-voltage lines close to wildfire-prone towns and neighborhoods could spark another inferno like Paradise, California.
- The humming, buzzing, crackling noise of completed lines will exceed Department of Environmental Quality safety standards for many households and could exacerbate health issues.
- Electro-magnetic Fields (EMFs) have been known to cause electric shock near farm equipment and disrupt the navigation and controls of pivot irrigation systems.

Alternatives to B2H: What Idaho Power Can Do Instead

- Upgrade the current 230kv lines to 345kv on the same poles with the same corridor and enhance their fire-resiliency.
- Partner with customers and use our smart meters for more than just paying bills. Smart meters can help incentivize energy conservation during peak times.
- Partner with industrial customers to use their steam (think: frozen food factories) to produce energy, reduce their costs, and save jobs.
- Invest in community or commercial solar projects with battery storage near the existing substations (smoothing & balancing renewable power on to the grid.)
- Build local renewables in Idaho, creating green energy jobs for local people, using Idaho's sun, wind and hydro-resources. (They've reluctantly started but very slowly!)

SIGN UP to STOP B2H! www.stopb2h.org

Donate at our Website or Facebook or Mail to: 60366 Marvin Rd, La Grande, Oregon 97850

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