

July 23, 2002

Senator Ted Ferrioli  
750 W. Main,  
John Day, OR 97845

Phone: (541) 575-2321

Dear Senator Ferrioli,

Thank you for returning my call and for patiently answering my many questions. As requested here is the letter relating my experiences with Wasco Electric Co-op...all of which have been negative. There is much to relate so I will try to be brief. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you need more information or documentation.

In 1987 I went to work one day and came back to find power lines strung across my property to service two adjacent building lots. Awhile later I called the Wasco Electric Co-op manager asking whether he had an easement allowing the installation of these power lines. He basically said that the power company could do whatever it wanted to until I threatened to get a lawyer. Then his tone changed markedly and he offered to write a letter saying that they would move the power lines if I wanted them to.

Wanting to be a nice guy and since the building locations had not been decided at that time I figured that the letter from the co-op would at least put them "on the record" as acknowledging that there was an easement problem. About two years ago the building locations were finalized and I called the co-op to have the power lines moved. The first answer I got was a flat "no". Then I had my lawyer write them a letter. They then said they would move the lines if I would get all of the easements. I rejected that on the basis that I was not going to reward their bad management.

In return I offered to draw on my good rapport with the neighbors and get all of the easements if they would clean up several other sloppily installed power lines in the area. They rejected that offer and I ordered them to remove the easement-less power lines which they refused to do. The power lines are still there and that's where we stand at this point. Not only does the co-op *not* have an easement for that section but the don't care that they don't have an easement either. There's only one pole and about 400 feet of power line at issue so unless their lawyer works for \$5 an hour they have spent more money on the lawyer dealing with this issue that they would have moving the power lines.

They also have a defective splice in the power feeder line that serves my house. Not only is a splice in a feeder line a National Electrical Code violation but when the wind blows at a high rate - which it often does around here as you know - the lights flicker off and on inside the house. I have told them to fix it. My lawyer has told them to fix it. The co-op's insurance carrier has told them to fix it. And it is still not fixed.

My lawyer has researched this and told me that I had could take them to court and have a fair chance of winning. But it would cost \$20,000.00 in legal fees for all of the time required and, like most people, I don't have \$20,000.00 for any purpose much less this one. The co-op also has many other problems including refusing to provide information about the co-op and conducting what appears to be rigged elections for the board of directors.

When you contact the co-op don't waste your time with the manager. I'm sure she's a nice enough person but she's only a figurehead and hasn't the foggiest idea of what management is all about. You will need to contact the board president Neal Harth at 541-298-8401 or their lawyer Dan Van Vactor at 725 N.W. Broadway, Bend, OR 97701. Phone: 541-389-6700. Fax: 541-382-2439.

Again thank you for returning my call. I'll look forward to a successful resolution of this issue. I'll look forward to seeing you at the Sol West Renewable Energy Fair in John Day July 26, 27 and 28.

Best regards,

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