

Submitter: Pat Kaczmarek
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3336

In Support of HB 3336

As we are in a Climate Emergency, it is imperative that Oregon is proactive in enhancing transmission systems for the increase in clean energy production to offset declining fossil fuel use.

The fastest and least expensive method to improve our transmission system is through the use of Grid Enhancement Technologies (GETs). These hardware or software innovations allow the electricity transmission system to operate more efficiently. Installing GETs allows the existing transmission system to carry more electricity, thus decreasing the number of costly new lines needed to meet increased demand, and bypasses the lengthy permitting and approval process required to run new transmission lines across a patchwork of public and private properties.

HB 3336 would require Oregon electric utilities to incorporate GETs into their future planning. The bill would require GETs to be incorporated into utilities' Integrated Resource Plans (IRPs), which are reviewed by Oregon's Public Utilities Commission (OPUC).

Utilities in Oregon lack proper incentives to employ GETs. Our utilities earn a return from investments, and GETs decrease the need for major investments. This is counter productive in managing power grids for the benefit of the general public that they were instituted to serve.

GETs are a cost-effective way of increasing the capacity of our existing transmission infrastructure in the near-term, and GETs are the cheapest and quickest way to create more capacity in our transmission system!

I urge the committee to support HB 3336 and vote to move this bill forward for approval in this legislative session. Now is the time to be a Climate Hero.