

My name is Paulette Bierzychudek and I am an Oregon resident from House district 41. I have a doctorate in ecology and have studied and taught climate science for decades. I write to offer my strong support for HB 3336, Grid Enhancing Technologies, and for HB 3628, which would create an Oregon Electric Transmission Authority.

The climate crisis is real and it threatens the health and welfare of all Oregonians and of the natural world on which our survival depends. As we continue to electrify in order to reduce our use of climate-damaging fossil fuels, our demand for electrical power is constantly increasing. Creating new infrastructure to support this demand is expensive and requires time that we cannot afford. HB 3336 would save both money and time by requiring utilities to incorporate a variety of grid-enhancing technologies into their planning, thus making the existing infrastructure more efficient. This bill will also save Oregonians money on utility costs by decreasing needs for expensive infrastructure projects. For these reasons, I support HB 3336.

Oregon's electrical transmission system would also be well-served by the passage of HB 3628. This bill would address the Pacific Northwest's absence of a regional transmission authority; it would create an Oregon Electric Transmission Authority that would oversee projects to enhance our state's transmission capacity in a cost-effective way. The budget for the Authority's work would be funded by charging large electricity users for the extraordinary demand they place on our existing systems. Creation of this body would help to increase our transmission capacity without creating an impossible financial burden for ordinary customers. For these reasons, I support HB 3628.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

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