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On Behalf Of:
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Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3336

If you're looking for the quickest and cheapest way to fix Oregon's electricity transmission system, the answer isn't a massive new set of power lines cutting across the state. It's something far simpler and far smarter: Grid Enhancement Technologies, or GETs. These technologies are the kind of innovation that quietly make systems run more efficiently, which means that more power can flow through existing lines, reducing the need for costly and disruptive new ones.

Oregon House Bill 3336 presents an opportunity to take advantage of this low-hanging fruit, by requiring utilities to consider GETs in their Integrated Resource Plans (IRPs). Now, the idea might sound new to some, but in Europe, GETs are already doing heavy lifting. They're improving grid capacity at a fraction of the cost and time it takes to build new infrastructure. And yet, in the U.S., we're lagging behind—not because the technology doesn't work, but because utilities have a financial incentive to focus on big, expensive infrastructure projects. They make more money off big investments than they do off subtle upgrades like GETs.

But that's the thing. GETs are cheap. GETs are quick. And GETs are the future. They allow existing transmission systems to carry more electricity without the headaches (and sticker shock) of building new lines. It's the kind of innovation that doesn't need a decade-long timeline and doesn't require us to wait for the next big breakthrough. It's here. It's ready. And with HB 3336, we can make it a priority.

By incorporating GETs into their planning, Oregon's electric utilities would be making a smart, forward-looking investment in the grid without needing to break the bank. And let's not forget the most critical part: GETs address the growing demand for energy while reducing the environmental and financial toll that new transmission lines would incur.

HB 3336 isn't just a policy—it's an investment in the practical, cost-effective technology that can transform our grid quickly, without all the bureaucracy, politics, or construction delays. This is the chance to make Oregon a leader in modernizing our infrastructure and to do so without more capital-intensive and disruptive fixes.

I urge you to support HB 3336, and to recognize the potential of GETs to deliver real results now, not in a decade, and not after another round of costly debates. Let's embrace the future, and let's do it the smart way.