

Submitter: Troy Clark

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3336

I am writing to strongly support HB 3336. The power companies must first upgrade transmission efficiency before demanding land for more transmission infrastructure. I am a board member of the Friends of Smith and Bybee Lakes (Friends). The Friends advocate for the protection of the Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area (SBWNA) which is the largest freshwater wetland in a city limits in the country. The SBWNA has three separate transmission systems running through it's area (BPA, PGE, PP&L) and all three have their transmission poles and towers in water most of the year. The window to do maintenance work on these poles is narrow and the work is quite disruptive to wildlife when large equipment must be used. The last thing the area needs is for one or more of these utilities to determine that they need more poles in the wetland. This observation also applies to Forest Park for these are the same lines that go through the SBNWA and the disruption to wildlife habitat is similar. I find it completely reasonable to require these utilities to incorporate GET technology before asking for the right to disrupt sensitive habitat and to increase their invasive footprint. Please vote YES on HB 3336 to protect wildlife habitat in natural areas.

Troy Clark

President, Friends of Smith and Bybee Lakes