

Submitter: Walt Mintkeski
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3628

I am a retired professional engineer, and I strongly support HB 3628. As a temporary solution to the lack of a Regional Transmission Authority (RTO) in the Pacific Northwest, this bill would create an Oregon Electric Transmission Authority to assess how to upgrade the electricity transmission system at low cost. This is critically important to integrating renewable generation into our electrical grid.

The bill specifies the structure of the new Authority, including its Board of Directors, Staff and Budget. The new Authority would be vested with the power to issue transmission revenue bonds, coordinate the implementation of Grid Enhancement Technologies (GETs), streamline siting of new power facilities, and help establish public-private partnerships to enable robust funding.

An Oregon Electric Transmission Authority would catalyze investment and public support for needed expansion of electric transmission capacity in Oregon by financing, developing, constructing, upgrading, owning and operating electric transmission infrastructure.

The authority would identify and establish electric transmission corridors with statewide significance, and utilize low-cost revenue bonds to finance transmission projects whose costs are recovered by collecting payments from the users of the authority's transmission facilities.