Testimony to House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment
Support HB 3336 and HB 3628 – Transmission policy

February 24, 2025

Dear Chair Lively, Vice-Chairs Gamba and Levy, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing today in strong support of HB 3336 and HB 3628, transmission grid policy improvements.

Oregon is way behind in building out a transmission grid to support the growing need for additional electrical supply,   We require improvements in all elements of designing, building, expanding and maintaining our transmission grid. HB 3336 and HB 3628 are two important steps in that improvement process.

HB 3336 – Grid Enhancing Technologies
We will need to build out brand-new transmission lines to handle the growing electrical demand as well as the distributed nature of renewable generation, but we will also need to improve the bandwidth and of our current grid. Grid Enhancement Technologies (GETs) offer a fast and cost-effective way to improve the grid's efficiency.   It is unfortunate that our utilities have been slow to adopt GETs (especialy compared to European adoption), but we cannot wait for the utilities to act. Hence the need for HB 3336 to require the inclusion of GETs in the Integrated Resource Plans (IRPs). The more broadly we exploit GETs the fewer new transmission lines will be required, a significant savings.

HB 3628 – Oregon Electric Transmission Authority
Part of the reason that Oregon is so far behind in transmission is that we do not have a centralized organization with the authority to define and execute on the transmission needed now and in the future. The best practice would be to be included in a Regional Transmission Organization that spans the Pacific Northwest, but that does not yet exist. This bill creates an interim organization to assess and guide the most cost-effective way to improve out transmission grid at a reasonable cost – no more than $2 million annually.

I urge support for HB 3336 and HB 3628 by the Committee.

Sincerely,

Daniel D. Frye, PhD
MCAT (Mobilizing Climate Action Together)