

Submitter: Carla Wise

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3628

I'm writing in support of HB3628, which would establish the Oregon Electric Transmission Authority. This bill is necessary because we lack a Regional Transmission Authority (RTO) in the Pacific Northwest. We urgently need to determine how to upgrade the electricity transmission system at low cost due to rising electricity needs and projections that this trend will only increase in the coming decades. The bill specifies the structure of the new Authority, including its Board of Directors, Staff and Budget. The new Authority would have the power to issue transmission revenue bonds, coordinate the implementation of GETs, streamline siting of new power facilities, and help establish public-private partnerships to enable robust funding. It's vital that this bill be passed as part of the package to meet Oregon's growing electricity demands in a safe, affordable, and sustainable way.