

Testimony on HB 3628 (Establishes the Oregon Electric Transmission Authority)

Chair Lively, Vice-chairs Gamba and Levy, and members of the committee,

My name is John Christensen, and I'm a member of the MCAT (Mobilizing Climate Action Together) work group on forestry.

I support HB 3628, because Oregon's electrical transmission system needs a public entity that would take the lead in assessing low-cost ways of enhancing the grid for the expected increased load demands in the near future. An Oregon Electric Transmission Authority would catalyze investment and public support for needed expansion of electric transmission capacity in this state by financing, developing, constructing, upgrading, owning and operating electric transmission infrastructure. With an annual operating budget capped at \$2 million, the authority would identify and establish electric transmission corridors with statewide significance, and utilize low-cost revenue bonds to finance transmission projects that are recovered by collecting payments from the users of the authority's transmission facilities.