

I am writing in support of HB 3628 to establish an Oregon Electric Transmission Authority.

As I mention in a letter in support of HB 3336, my wife and I are transitioning from methane-powered appliances to electrical appliances in part to reduce our carbon footprint. As we and others take this step, we know that it will increase demand for electricity and thus for generation and transmission of sustainable sources of electricity. As I understand it, this process is now largely helter-skelter, relying on the actions of individual companies to anticipate and supply future electrical needs. And much of our current electricity is derived from the Bonneville Power Administration, whose capacity and management are under assault from large scale personnel layoffs.

Hence, I think it behooves Oregon to take control of its electrical future by establishing an electric transmission authority, as other states have done, to plan for and oversee the necessary upgrades to our electrical grid. The bill establishes an authority with a very modest budget that should more than pay for itself with savings in expediting the construction, upgrading, and operation of the electrical infrastructure. I am also pleased that it gives an important voice to indigenous citizens of the state, to help ensure that decisions made by the authority are equitable.

This bill seems as close to a no-brainer as I can imagine, and I support it enthusiastically.

Sincerely,

Gary Reiness