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Testimony supporting House Bill 3336

Chair Lively and members of the House Committee on Climate, Energy and Environment:

As I have noted previously, Southern Oregon Climate Action Now is a grassroots climate organization of some 2,000 Southern Oregonians. We are concerned about the climate crisis and seek federal, state and local action to address it. We are rural and coastal Southern Oregonians who live on the frontlines of the warming, reducing snowpack, heatwaves, drought, rising sea level and the increasing wildfire risk that these trends conspire to impose on us. Because of our concern, we pay close attention to efforts nationally, statewide, and locally that impact our collective efforts to address the climate crisis. As our logo above indicates, the focus of SOCAN is to promote action through science.

Most Oregonians are connected to power sources, usually electricity and gas. These energy inputs arrive at our homes without much fanfare. Indeed, unless we suffer a power outage, we probably don't even think about the means by which the energy reaches our home. Of course, the means by which these energy sources arrive are quite intricate and complex. In the case of gas, the product arrives via a series of mainline and distribution pipelines. Regrettably, as McVay (2023) pointed out "According to EDF's analysis, natural gas pipelines nationwide are leaking as much as 2.6 million tons of methane each year, which has the same climate impact as nearly 50 million passenger cars driven for a year on near-term warming scales." Meanwhile, the transmission grid by which electricity arrives has its own problems. As Schuetz (2024) pointed out, on one hand, power outages during or following storms results from fallen trees and downed power lines, while, on the other hand, according to the Pacific Northwest Utilities Conference Committee, the need for energy is expected to grow 30% in the coming decade as a result, in part, from electrification. Moore (2024) noted that the Northwest will need much more transmission capacity over coming years to meet the growing demand. She also pointed out that "The lights could soon dim on the Northwest's climate goals unless the electric grid gets some serious TLC." Moore (2024) pointed out that one method for enhancing the performance of the grid is through reconductoring the power lines. This Grid Enhancing Technology can produce a doubling of transmission capacity at half the cost of constructing new lines. Mirzapour et al. (2024) pointed out that "Grid-enhancing technologies (GETs) are

necessary for the future grid.” They also argued that “Current market and regulatory structures provide little to no incentive for adoption and efficient operation of GETs.”

HB3336 provides a recognition of the above problems by requiring that the utilities themselves indicate in their Integrated Resource Plans filed with the Public Utilities Commission how they anticipate incorporating Grid Enhancing Technologies into their plans. As HB3336 itself states (OLIS 2025), the goal is that “An electric company shall file and include as part of the electric company’s clean energy plan required under ORS 469A.415, and the electric company’s integrated resource plan filed with the commission, a separate section that provides a strategic plan for using grid enhancing technologies where doing so is cost-effective. The electric company shall update the strategic plan every two years and make the strategic plan publicly available...”

Given the problems that our transmission grid currently is experiencing, and that the problem is only likely to increase over coming years, it only makes good sense to require our utilities to undertake the least expensive augmentation strategies through Grid Enhancing Technologies first rather than insist first on increasing the mileage of transmission lines. Given the connection between electricity transmission lines and wildfire ignition (WFCA 2024) promoting GETs doubly indicated.

For the above reasons Southern Oregon Climate Action Now urges support for HB3336.

Respectfully Submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alan Journet". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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