



February 26, 2025

Oregon State Legislature
House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for House Bill 3628, Relating to the Oregon Electric Transmission Authority

Dear Chair Lively, Vice Chairs Gamba and Levy, and members of the Committee,

On behalf of the more than 55,000 members and supporters of the Sierra Club Oregon Chapter, we write in support of House Bill 3628, which establishes the Oregon Electric Transmission Authority. A State Transmission Authority would enable early investment, reduce costs, and streamline development, ensuring the grid can support future needs while keeping rates manageable for consumers.

Oregon has both a significant projected growth in electrical demand and a growing queue of renewable energy projects waiting to be connected. The Oregon Electric Transmission Authority would help address both of these issues and unlock access to lower cost financing that will significantly reduce ratepayer burdens. This is a proven approach and will bring significant benefit to Oregon. We appreciate that the Tribal Advisory Council designates one of the nine voting members of the Oregon Electric Transmission Authority Board of Directors and we would like to continue to find enforceable ways that the Board can be accountable to the Tribal Advisory Council and Oregon's Tribes.

Strengthening Oregon's transmission infrastructure is key to ensuring a reliable, efficient, and resilient energy grid. Establishing strategic planning and designated transmission corridors will streamline development, reduce permitting delays, and minimize environmental impacts. Coordinating with in-state and out-of-state entities to expand interstate corridors will improve grid stability and access to diverse energy sources. The Transmission Authority will enhance transmission efficiency and maximize use of existing infrastructure, reducing costs while improving performance. Ensuring that economic progress benefits communities while safeguarding natural resources will create a stronger, more sustainable future for the state.

We appreciate the sponsors of this bill for working for years and bringing together many stakeholders in workgroups to get input, which has resulted in a very thoughtfully crafted bill. We need lots of new transmission capacity, so we need to plan together and make best use of what is already built. We urge support for this bill and look forward to the positive impacts it will have for our state.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Bowes, Policy Strategist

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

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