

Submitter: Rich Peppers

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3336

Written Comments on HB 3336, the Grid Enhancing Technologies Bill

I urge your vote in support of HB 3336, the Grid Enhancing Technologies Bill.

It is generally understood that demand for electricity in Oregon as elsewhere will continue to grow dramatically, and as a state we need to prepare for that or face brown-outs or worse problems emblematic of an overstretched grid. Part of the answer is making sure we develop sufficient electricity “supply” to satisfy the new demand, but another, very important part is making sure we have transmission lines in place that can efficiently and effectively “send” the energy from where it is generated to where it is needed - in growing volumes.

HB 3336 helps with the transmission capacity problems. It recognizes that there are many Grid Enhancing Technologies (GETs) that would expand the carrying capacity of the existing (but improved) transmission lines and of the overall grid, but that have yet to be used. The reasons why these GETs have not yet been employed in significant ways may have to do with disincentives in the ways utilities’ return on investment is calculated. HB 3336 therefore requires that GETs are factored into the Integrated Resource Plans of electric utilities, and for these to be reviewed by the Public Utilities Commission as part of their regular protocol.

Again, I urge you to vote YES on HB 3336..