

Submitter: Rich Peppers

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3628

HB 3628 – Oregon Electric Transmission Authority

I urge your YES vote for HB 3628.

Most regions of the US have a Regional Transmission Authority (RTO) which plays an important functional coordinating role in the operations of electric transmissions within their area. Oregon does not have such an organization, but it needs one, to better coordinate the fragmented electrical players in our area for a unified and more efficient approach to solving problems with our electric grid's development. HB 3628 accepts that it will take some time to form a full-fledged RTO in our area, and instead proposes a temporary "Oregon Electric Transmission Authority (OETA)."

HB 3628 proposes a structure for the OETA, and describes several of its functions, including:

- * to evaluate how to improve the electricity transmission system cost-effectively
- * to develop the implementation of Grid Enhancing Technologies (GETs)
- * to issue transmission revenue bonds and administer their use
- * to streamline the siting process for new power facilities, and
- * to encourage the creation of public-private partnerships to help with funding

All of these functions are critical to moving past our currently fragmented electrical grid to a more efficient and coordinated system. HB 3628 represents a big step forward. I again encourage you to support it. Thank you.