



The Nature Conservancy in Oregon
821 SE 14th Avenue
Portland, OR 97214-2537

tel 503 802-8100

fax 503 802-8199

nature.org/oregon

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House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment

Testimony in support of HB 3336

Submitted by Laura Tabor, Climate Action Director

Chair Lively, Vice Chairs Gamba and Levy, and Committee members:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 3336.

TNC is a non-partisan, science-based organization that works in communities across the state, manages lands and waters in varied ecosystems, and partners with ranchers, farmers, fishers, timber, and environmental interests on some of the most challenging conservation issues facing people and nature. As a conservation organization, TNC is committed to fighting both climate change and biodiversity loss to create a future where people and nature thrive. We want to help the state meet its clean energy goals with least impact to nature and communities.

Advanced reconductoring and grid-enhancing technologies (GETs) offer important opportunities to add capacity and resilience to our existing transmission corridors. According to the Sightline Institute, advanced reconductoring can [“double the transmission lines’ capacity at less than half the cost of building new lines”](#). This could greatly reduce the amount of new, greenfield transmission corridors developed to meet new electricity loads and the cost of adding transmission capacity. GETs such as dynamic line ratings, topology optimization, and advanced power flow controls offer tools to make the most of existing infrastructure and reduce wildfire risk.

Experts in the electricity sector often reference the “3 Ps” that must be addressed to accelerate transmission development – planning, permitting, and paying. The focus of HB 3336 is on planning. There is a significant gap in Oregon utilities’ current planning processes that limits assessment of advanced reconductoring and GETs implementation opportunities to meet transmission needs and upgrade our aging infrastructure. HB 3336 takes an important step to close this gap by setting a clear framework for utilities to plan for and deploy cost-effective technology to increase transmission capacity, efficiency, and resilience.

We strongly urge your support of HB 3336 and moving this bill forward.