

# Oregon Transmission Authority

## HB 3628



### WHY DOES OREGON NEED A TRANSMISSION AUTHORITY?

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In the face of increasing electricity rates, states are considering alternative methods for financing and developing transmission. A study recently conducted in California found that alternative methods of financing transmission could save ratepayers from 25-50% on electricity rates. One method of ensuring critical infrastructure development meets state energy needs while considering cost impacts on ratepayers is to develop a State Transmission Authority. WY, ID, KS, ND, SD, CO and NM have already established state Transmission Authorities and in 2025, OR, WA and MT are considering its creation.

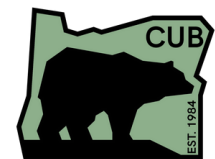
The Pacific Northwest needs at least 56% more transmission to meet energy goals and electricity demand is expected to increase by 30% in the next ten years. Oregon has one of the longest backlogs in the country of projects waiting to connect to the transmission grid, with 182 GW of renewable energy in the queue. Without doubling our transmission capacity, they will not be able to connect.

Transmission projects face unique challenges in permitting and financing, making the needed buildout of infrastructure for the state a daunting task. A state Transmission Authority that helps invest early in transmission avoids future inflation, and can offer lower rates on project financing. A streamlined and future looking body like a state Transmission Authority would support the needed investment in transmission infrastructure to meet Oregon's significant energy needs.

### WHAT WILL THE TRANSMISSION AUTHORITY DO?

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- Engage in transmission planning activities that enhance grid reliability
- Identify and establish designated electric transmission corridors in Oregon
- Coordinate, assess, plan, prioritize and negotiate with in-state and out-of-state entities to develop interstate transmission corridors
- Explore options and alternatives that improve the efficiency of the transmission system
- Enter into partnerships with public or private entities to develop transmission



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