

Submitter: Stephanie Young
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3336

Dear Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 3336, which would require electric companies to develop and implement strategic plans for Grid-Enhancing Technologies (GETs) where cost-effective.

As an Oregon resident concerned about both rising utility costs and increasing wildfire risks, I believe this legislation represents a critical step forward in modernizing our electrical infrastructure. GETs offer practical solutions to multiple pressing challenges facing our state:

First, these technologies can significantly improve the efficiency of our existing transmission lines. By maximizing the capacity of our current infrastructure, we can delay or reduce the need for costly new construction projects that inevitably result in higher utility bills for consumers like me.

Second, GETs provide enhanced monitoring capabilities that can quickly identify potential problems on transmission lines. This increased sensitivity to issues such as fallen branches or equipment malfunctions could prevent devastating wildfires before they start. As we've seen in recent years, the human and economic costs of wildfires are immense, and any technology that helps mitigate these risks deserves our full support.

Third, implementing GETs will accelerate our transition to renewable energy. Our current transmission system was not designed to accommodate the distributed, variable nature of renewable power generation. Grid-enhancing technologies can help optimize power flow and increase capacity to integrate more solar, wind, and other clean energy sources into our grid—reducing our dependence on fossil fuels and helping Oregon meet its climate goals.

The bill's requirement for regular updates to strategic plans ensures that utilities will continue to evaluate and implement the most effective technologies as they evolve. Additionally, the cost-effectiveness analysis provision ensures that ratepayers' interests are protected as these improvements are made.

I appreciate that the legislation gives utilities until 2030 to implement their first strategic plans, providing adequate time for thoughtful planning while still creating a

firm deadline for action.

I urge you to support House Bill 3336 and help Oregon move toward a more efficient, safer, and cleaner electrical grid.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephanie