



NW Energy Coalition
for a clean and affordable energy future

**Testimony in Support
HB 3336
Fred Heutte, Senior Policy Associate
NW Energy Coalition
February 26, 2025**

Members of the House Climate, Energy, and Environment Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 3336, which would authorize the Oregon Public Utility Commission to receive plans submitted by regulated electric utilities describing how they will use grid enhancing technologies (GETs) to expand service and improve reliability in a cost-effective manner. The details were described in testimony on the bill during the committee meeting Tuesday morning.

I am appearing on behalf of the NW Energy Coalition, representing a broad range of community, environmental, clean energy, utility and local government organizations in Oregon and throughout the Northwest. My experience includes 15 years of participation in utility, Northwest regional and west-wide transmission planning, including the emerging field of grid enhancing technologies.

NWEC has participated in the pre-session work group and commends Rep. Gamba, his staff and all participants for the thorough and substantive review leading to the bill, and we are pleased to support the bill and urge your approval with a Do Pass recommendation.

As you've heard in other legislation discussions, Oregon needs additional transmission capacity from new power lines to achieve our clean energy goals while also meeting increased power demands in a reliable and affordable way. However, new transmission lines take many

years to plan, develop and build, even with efficiencies envisioned in separate legislative proposals.

However, a range of technologies now exist with proven potential to expand the capacity of the current transmission grid using cost-effective solutions. These technologies can modernize existing transmission capacity, allowing us to utilize increased efficiencies more quickly while we also plan for and develop an expanded transmission network.

Both the Oregon Public Utility Commission and regulated utilities are well-versed in determining cost-effective measures. Explicitly placing this requirement within the existing regulatory system provides needed tools as more clean energy generation resources are considered.

While our utilities already assess grid enhancing technologies to varying degrees, the bill provides for consistent utility and Commission review of this increasingly crucial planning and deployment work to meet peaks in power demand, enhance reliability, improve the ability to transmit clean energy resources, and save customers money on their utility bills.

We thank Rep. Gamba for convening the pre-session work group that developed the bill. This preparation has resulted in a well crafted bill with broad support from a wide variety of stakeholders.

We are proud to add our own support for HB 3336 and urge the committee to recommend the bill with a Do Pass vote.

Thank you again for the opportunity to submit testimony.