

Date: February 26, 2025

To: House Committee on Climate, Energy and Environment

RE: HB 3336 & HB 3628 - SUPPORT

Dear Chair Lively, Vice-chairs Gamba and Levy, and members of the House Committee on Climate, Energy and Environment,

My name is Brenda Garcia Mejía, and I have lived in Salem, Oregon, for many years. Over time, I've seen Oregon's population steadily grow, and it is clear that we must prepare our energy systems to meet the needs of this growing population and changing climate impacts.

The effects of climate change are becoming more obvious every year. Extreme weather events, such as icy winters, have caused power outages across the state, often leaving communities without clear information about when power will be restored. This scenario further emphasizes the need to further develop our energy transmission systems to increase the reliability and accessibility.

While the demand for electricity is not yet at a critical level, it is irresponsible to rely on a system designed for fewer energy users. With ongoing housing development, especially affordable housing in Salem and other areas, it is essential that these new homes have the electricity they need. It doesn't take long for newly built homes to be filled, and we must make sure these homes are part of a reliable and affordable energy system.

Expanding transmission systems now will help meet the rising demand for electricity, such as new housing, and stabilize energy costs as we transition to cleaner, more sustainable energy sources. Stable energy pricing will benefit not only low-income communities but also any consumer who has struggles with unreliable electricity.

Reliable energy sources outages will surely reduce and Oregon will be able to respond to climate impacts more efficiently now that Oregonians won't be impacted by a lack of energy reliability.

Hence I strongly support HB 3336 and HB 3628.

Sincerely,

Brenda
Salem, OR