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Testimony supporting House Bill 3681

Chair Lively and members of the House Committee on Climate, Energy and Environment:

As I have noted previously, Southern Oregon Climate Action Now is a grassroots climate organization of some 2,000 Southern Oregonians. We are concerned about the climate crisis and seek federal, state and local action to address it. We are rural and coastal Southern Oregonians who live on the frontlines of the warming, reducing snowpack, heatwaves, drought, rising sea level and the increasing wildfire risk that these trends conspire to impose on us. Because of our concern, we pay close attention to efforts nationally, statewide, and locally that impact our collective efforts to address the climate crisis. As our logo above indicates, the focus of SOCAN is to promote action through science

It is becoming increasingly clear that the transmission grid is a weak link in our efforts both to promote renewable energy and electrify our lives to avoid the impact combusting fossil fuels (e.g., Schuetz 2024; Moore 2024; Mirzapour et al. 2024). The problem we have is transmission capacity. While capacity can be enhanced via an array of Grid Enhancing Technologies (e.g., Schuetz 2024; Moore 2024; Mirzapour et al. 2024), it would also be beneficial for the state to simplify rules that restrict the Energy Facility Siting Council from timely approval of necessary transmission line construction" (OLIS 2025).

The 2025 legislative session is seeing a number of bills that seek to overcome weaknesses in the Oregon Transmission grid (HB3366; HB 3628). If we wish to enhance our grid, the legislature should pass this set of bills. Very simply, HB3681 updates rules that are long overdue for review by overhauling the cumbersome nature of rules that compromise the development of new transmission lines.

For the above reasons Southern Oregon Climate Action Now urges support for HB3628.

Respectfully Submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alan R.P. Journet". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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