

**Testimony to House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment
Support for HB 3681**

March 10, 2025

Dear Chair Lively, Vice-Chairs Gamba and Levy, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Dr. Daniel Frye, I organize with MCAT (Mobilizing Climate Action Together), a community of volunteers working to advance a healthy climate and a successful green economy for future generations.

I write today in strong support of HB 3681 for one simple reason - Oregon's overly complex and agonizingly slow permitting process for adding transmission capacity is holding back our ability to address an ongoing rapid growth in demand for electricity.

Some of the most critical elements of HB 3681 are:

- Speeding up the Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC) timeline by limiting contested cases (which is essentially all cases) to one year or less and directing all appeals of case decisions to the Oregon Supreme Court, bypassing the step-by-step appeal process
- Utilizing common sense on simple matters by allowing companies to bypass the EFSC on minor boundary changes and to automatically grant some deadline extensions without review.
- Narrowing how standing is earned for judicial review by ensuring that standing is based on individual or representational interest.
- Simplifying the certificate of public convenience and necessity (CPCN) by removing duplicative analysis and narrowing the scope of review to focus on the need for incremental transmission lines.

These reasonable improvements in the permitting process will significantly speed up the overall process as well as reducing cost for developers. None of these steps endanger how we protect Oregon's other resources (environment, wildlife, clean water, cultural assets, citizens, etc.).

Taken together with HB 3336 (Grid Enhancing Technologies) and HB 3628 (Oregon Electric Transmission), HB 3681 is a critical bill for dramatically improving how quickly and well we can address our growing shortage of electricity.

I urge support of HB 3681 by the Committee.

Sincerely,

Daniel D. Frye, PhD
MCAT (Mobilizing Climate Action Together)