

Submitter: James Cavin

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3681

This bill is a crucial step toward ensuring our energy infrastructure can meet the needs of the future. HB 3681 rounds out the essential policies and tools brought forward by this session's special transmission package, including HB 3336 – Grid Enhancing Technologies and HB 3628 – Oregon Electric Transmission Authority. These three bills are not standalone solutions; together, they form a cohesive, forward-thinking approach to securing the state's energy future. In a country where grid reliability is more fragile than ever, these bills are the framework we need to make sure Oregonians stay safe, connected, and powered, even in times of crisis.

Without these critical changes to improve and expedite the development of transmission infrastructure, Oregon's energy delivery systems will be woefully ill-equipped to meet the needs of our growing population, expanding businesses, and the rapidly evolving technological landscape. We know that advancements in AI, the demands of cryptocurrency businesses, the electrification of buildings and cars, and natural development will place exponentially greater demands on our existing energy systems. It's not a question of "if" but "when" the current system will buckle under this pressure without intervention.

Right now is the time to act. We can no longer afford to let outdated rules and regulatory bottlenecks prevent us from taking the necessary steps to modernize and expand our energy grid. By simplifying and accelerating the processes that delay the construction of new energy transmission infrastructure, HB 3681 makes it possible for us to build a grid that can keep pace with the demand we know is coming.