



Portland General Electric

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Representative John Lively, Chair
House Climate, Energy, and Environment Committee
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

March 11, 2025

Re: House Bill 3681

Chair Lively, Vice Chairs Gamba and Levy, and members of the House Climate, Energy, and Environment Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 3681 on behalf of Portland General Electric. generates, transmits, and distributes electricity to over 950,000 customers serving an area of 1.9 million Oregonians in seven counties and 51 incorporated cities. We are proud to be an Oregon company and privileged to serve customers of all sizes that bring infrastructure, jobs, economic growth, and opportunities to benefit the state and region.

PGE is pleased to offer testimony in support of House Bill 3681, which seeks to improve the efficiency of Oregon's energy facility siting process. We believe this legislation will contribute to a more streamlined approach for developing essential energy infrastructure in our state. HB 3681 represents a step forward in addressing some of the challenges we face in developing crucial energy infrastructure, particularly transmission projects.

The concepts outlined in HB 3681 and the -1 Amendment align well with the policy priorities PGE has identified as essential for improving the state's energy landscape. It is encouraging to see that many of these ideas, which were also supported by our colleagues at Idaho Power based on their experience with the Boardman-to-Hemingway (B2H) project, are being considered for implementation.

One of the most promising aspects of this bill is the proposed changes to the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) process. The provision allowing the Public Utility Commission (PUC) to consider CPCN petitions before local land use approvals could significantly streamline permitting, potentially helping utilities avoid timing and permitting challenges in the future. This change could reduce delays and uncertainties in the development of critical energy infrastructure.

As we move forward, it's crucial that we continue to advocate for additional state and local level actions to further streamline and improve the process for future transmission projects. The concepts in HB 3681 provide a solid foundation, but we should view this as part of an ongoing effort to create a more efficient, predictable, and effective regulatory environment for energy infrastructure development in Oregon. By supporting these changes and continuing to push for further improvements, we can help ensure that PGE and other utilities are better positioned to meet the growing energy needs of our state while advancing our clean energy goals.

HB 3681 is a positive step forward towards the objective of a more agile and responsive energy infrastructure development process.

Thank you for your consideration,

Greg Alderson
Senior Manager, State and Federal Government Affairs