

March 28, 2025

House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Support for HB 3927 Electric transmission infrastructure

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

My name is Rebecca Smith, and I serve as a Policy and Technical Advisor to the Renewable Hydrogen Alliance (RHA). RHA is a regional non-profit trade association enabling access to safe, affordable, and renewable hydrogen for communities across the Pacific Northwest. Our 80+ members represent the full value chain of the hydrogen ecosystem – hydrogen technology and service providers, equipment manufacturers, project developers, public transit agencies, labor unions, utilities, and many others with an interest in the clean and renewable hydrogen sector. RHA thanks you for the opportunity to express support for HB 3927.

Clean and renewable hydrogen are considered an essential part of Oregon's transition to a clean energy economy. Hydrogen will serve as a transportation fuel for long-route and heavy-duty vehicles; an input for sustainable fuels and locally produced fertilizer; and a critical component of resilient, reliable, efficient energy systems. Recent analysis by Washington Department of Commerce estimates that 27 percent of the state's total energy use will be met by hydrogen. The Oregon Department of Energy's State Energy Strategy interim findings have already shown that hydrogen will play a critical role in clean fuels supply and electric sector decarbonization.

Local production of electrolytic hydrogen in Oregon will rely on access to clean, affordable, and reliable electricity. Forecasts for the Pacific Northwest show a growth in demand for electricity of over 30 percent in the next ten years and 100 percent over the next 30 years. However, our transmission system is currently at capacity. Transmission is notoriously difficult to permit – for example, Oregon's Boardman to Hemingway transmission line was first proposed in Idaho Power's 2006 Integrated Resource Plan and received approval from EFSC in 2022. However, if Oregon wishes to meet its climate and clean energy goals while meeting the growing demand for electricity and maintaining a safe and reliable grid, more transmission is needed.

RHA supports HB 3927 as an essential step in identifying transmission upgrades and expansions that can reduce reliability risks and facilitate the interconnection of new renewable generating resources, including those already in the interconnection queue and those planned.

Thank you for the opportunity to express RHA's support for HB 3927.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Smith', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Rebecca Smith
RHA Policy and Technical Advisor
Principal, Transformist Consulting