

Submitter: Deborah Carey
On Behalf Of: 350
Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3681

The thorny question is how to do this without perpetuating long-standing patterns of undue burden on environmental justice and other low income communities or our natural ecosystems.

We are not knowledgeable enough about the details of Oregon statutes to weigh in on whether HB 3681 accomplishes this.

What we can say with confidence is that new transmission will come online faster, be more cost-effective, and create fewer emissions (including embodied carbon) if two other bills currently before the legislature are passed: Vice-Chair Gamba's HB 3336 which would deploy grid enhancing technologies (GETs) to increase transmission capacity and reliability on existing lines, and SB 688, which directs the Public Utility Commission to create a framework for carrying out performance-based regulation of utilities. Performance-based regulation of utilities would make it profitable for utilities to implement GETs and distributed power plants, reducing though not eliminating, the need for expensive new transmission. There is a quadruple win to be had by passing HB 3336 and SB 688 first, and then passing a version of HB3681 (we heard in the hearing that there are amendments in the works!) that addresses the valid concerns of farmers and others concerned about eminent domain and disruption of natural and working lands: Reduced utility costs for all, improved reliability, reduced emissions, and a reduction in conflict between different land uses. We thank the Committee. Deborah Carey.