



## Oral Testimony to the House Climate Energy and Environment Committee Support for HB 3336 – Grid Enhancing Technologies

May 12, 2025

Chair Solman, Vice-chair Brock Smith, and members of the committee,

My name is Dr. Pat DeLaquil. I am an energy system modeler and climate policy analyst, and I am testifying on behalf of the MCAT (Mobilizing Climate Action Together), a community of volunteers working on advancing a healthy climate and a green economy for future generations.

Oregon faces a sharp increase in demand for electricity that will require substantial improvements to our transmission grid. A broad and diverse workgroup met over the past year and a half to assess the current state of the electricity transmission grid in Oregon and that process has resulted in 4 policy proposals, two of which are before you today.

Grid Enhancement Technologies (GETs) will allow the existing transmission system to carry more electricity, which is critical to meeting growing, near-term loads, especially from data center. They will also decrease the number of costly new lines needed to meet our region's growing electricity demand in the longer term.

HB 3336 requires Oregon electric utilities to plan for and deploy cost-effective GETs into their Integrated Resource Plans (IRPs), which are reviewed by Oregon's Public Utilities Commission (OPUC). This bill is needed to motivate utilities and the OPUC because GETs have not received the acceptance in the US that they enjoy in Europe – partly because utilities earn a return from investments, and GETs decrease the need for major investments.

Although BPA controls much of the transmission in the Northwest, their cooperation and coordination are becoming less certain, which increases the importance of state action to pursue timely and cost-effective expansion of our transmission network leading to an organized regional market.

I urge you to support **HB 3336**. We need coordinated actions to strengthen and expand our electricity transmission system with a long-term goal of evolving an RTO for the region, so we can meet projected future load growth and increase our access to regional resources for low-cost clean energy resources.

Sincerely,

**MCAT Steering Committee**  
Pat DeLaquil