

Memo



Date: May 14, 2025
Subject: Support for HB 3336

Chair Sollman and Members of the Committee:

PAE Consulting Engineers, a 400-person consulting engineering firm incorporated in Oregon and specializing in high-performance buildings and resilient energy systems, urges your support for HB 3336 and the -2 amendment. This legislation will bolster our State's transmission capacity to help reliably and affordably deliver clean energy to Oregonians.

PAE's office is located in a building equipped with a 280 kWh battery energy storage system and microgrid. This system can be used as a utility distribution and resilience resource for our business, allowing us to operate entirely grid-disconnected for up to 100 days per year. Additionally, it serves as a potential revenue source by enrolling in PGE's Energy Partner On Demand program, which reacts in real-time to utility requests for load reduction and grid support. By providing on-demand load reduction, the program effectively reduces the demand on transmission lines while offering on-site resilience and an income source for building owners. Our battery/microgrid system has proven to be an effective solution for our business and demonstrates the potential benefits of grid-enhancing technologies.

A recent investigation by ProPublica and Oregon Public Broadcasting highlighted significant challenges in the Pacific Northwest's adoption of renewable energy. Despite Oregon's progressive policies and ambitious mandates for carbon neutrality, our state ranks 47th out of 50 in adding new renewable energy sources. By modernizing Oregon's transmission capacity, HB 3336 will help meet growing energy demands, increase resilience to severe weather events, and deliver the benefits of new renewable generation sources to ratepayers.

HB 3336 (Grid Enhancing Technologies) is a commonsense solution that will expand transmission capacity by requiring utilities to deploy cost-effective technologies to existing infrastructure. Grid Enhancing Technologies, or "GETs," are a group of hardware and software solutions that increase transmission systems' efficiency, capacity, and reliability. By directing our Public Utility Commission and utilities to integrate GETs technologies into their planning processes, HB 3336 and the -2 amendment will address the pressing need for expanded transmission capacity in Oregon.

We respectfully urge your support for HB 3336 and the -2 amendment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marc Brune".

Marc P. Brune, PE
Senior Principal