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Senate Committee on Energy and Environment

Testimony in support of HB 3336

Submitted by Lauren Link, OR TNC State Policy Advisor

Chair Sollman, Vice Chair Brock Smith, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments **in support of HB 3336**, which requires investor-owned utilities (IOUs) to plan for and deploy grid enhancing technologies (GETs).

As a non-partisan, science-based organization, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is committed to fighting both climate change and biodiversity loss to create a future where people and nature thrive. We work in communities across the state, manage lands and waters in varied ecosystems, and partner with ranchers, farmers, fishers, timber, and environmental interests on some of the most challenging conservation issues facing people and nature. We want to help Oregon meet its clean energy goals with least impact to nature and communities.

There is a significant gap in Oregon utilities' current planning processes that limits assessment of advanced reconductoring and GETs implementation opportunities to meet transmission needs and upgrade our aging infrastructure. HB 3336 takes an important step by requiring IOUs to integrate GETs planning and deployment into existing integrated resource plans (IRPs), which will ensure utilities are deploying the most cost-effective solutions to increase transmission capacity, efficiency, and resilience.

Maximizing our existing grid through deployment of advanced reconductoring, dynamic line rating, topology optimization, and advanced power flow controls offer important tools to add capacity, efficiency, and resilience to our existing transmission corridors, all at a lower cost than the buildout of existing lines. According to the Sightline Institute, advanced reconductoring can [“double the transmission lines’ capacity at less than half the cost of building new lines”](#) .

As a conservation organization and land manager of over 148,00 acres in Oregon, we are excited about the potential of GETs in maximizing our existing grid, so we can greatly reduce the number of new, greenfield transmission corridors to meet new electricity loads. We urge the state to make the most of existing infrastructure by requiring the planning and deploying of GETs where appropriate as well as prioritizing the efficient use of existing lines and corridors.

We strongly urge your support of HB 3336 and request moving this bill forward.