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February 13, 2026

Joint Committee on Ways & Means
Subcommittee on Capital Construction
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Co-Chairs and Members of the Subcommittee:

On behalf of Williams, I am writing to express our strong support for the reconstruction of the existing Blue Mountain Translator District (BMTD) distribution line serving the communications facilities on Mt. Fanny.

Williams relies on the communications infrastructure supported by this distribution line for operational monitoring, coordination, and safety across our regional natural gas transmission system. The Mt. Fanny site provides essential connectivity for critical infrastructure partners, and other public and private entities. Reliable electric service to this communications hub is fundamental to maintaining situational awareness, emergency response capabilities, and system integrity.

We understand that BMTD's infrastructure, originally constructed in the late 1950s and early 1960s, is now in critically poor condition. The current state of the line presents both operational risk and potential safety concerns. Any interruption in electric service, whether due to failure or necessary de-energization for safety reasons, would directly impact communications reliability for critical state and energy infrastructure.

Reconstruction of this distribution line is not merely a maintenance upgrade; it is a necessary investment in public safety, infrastructure resilience, and continuity of essential services. Ensuring the line meets modern operating and safety standards will significantly reduce the risk of service disruption and strengthen the reliability of communications systems that support emergency preparedness and response throughout the region.

We respectfully urge you to prioritize and support funding for this project. The continued reliability of this distribution line is vital to maintaining the operational security and public safety functions it enables.

Sincerely,

Jimmie Hammontree
Director, State Government & Regulatory Affairs
Williams