

Submitter: Helena Birecki
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3336

Dear Chair Lively, Vice-chairs Gamba and Levy, and members of the committee,

Please pass HB 3336 out of Committee with a do pass recommendation.

I live in Portland and am extremely concerned about utility affordability, reducing pollution, and mitigating the climate crisis while being resilient to the extreme weather we already face. Multiple surveys in the news have shown that most Oregonians share these same concerns, and HB 3336-- requiring investor-owned electric utilities to file and carry out a plan to use grid enhancing technologies (GETs)-- is a step in the right direction on all of them.

GETs are an effective way to utilize software and hardware solutions to help the electric transmission system operate more efficiently, reducing the need for more transmission lines to be built, and reducing the need for additional power generation.

Because of the way they are structured, investor-owned utilities are not incentivized to prioritize cheaper solutions like GETs over larger and more expensive ones. HB 3336 is necessary to ensure that utilities use this kind of common sense, cost-effective solution that will save ratepayers money and support a more robust and reliable energy transmission system.

Protecting ratepayers against the natural tendencies of utility companies is exactly what the Oregon Public Utilities Commission is supposed to do. OPUC's mission is: "to ensure Oregonians have access to safe, reliable and fairly priced utility services that advance state policy and promote the public interest." Give OPUC the tools it needs to make this happen with respect to cost-saving, common sense, grid enhancing technologies.

Thank you,
Helena Birecki
Portland, OR