



# The Climate Reality Project<sup>®</sup>

## PORTLAND CHAPTER

Dear Chair Lively, Vice-Chairs Levy and Gamba, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 3681. Climate Reality Project Portland Chapter is an organization that advocates for a Just Transition to Clean Energy. Improved and increased electric transmission is absolutely essential to that equitable clean energy future.

The thorny question is how to do this without perpetuating long-standing patterns of undue burden on environmental justice and other low income communities or our natural ecosystems. We are not knowledgeable enough about the details of Oregon statutes to weigh in on whether HB 3681 accomplishes this.

What we can say with confidence is that new transmission will come online faster, be more cost-effective, and create fewer emissions (including embodied carbon) if two other bills currently before the legislature are passed: Vice-Chair Gamba's HB 3336 which would deploy grid enhancing technologies (GETs) to increase transmission capacity and reliability on existing lines, and SB 688, which directs the Public Utility Commission to create a framework for carrying out performance-based regulation of utilities. Performance-based regulation of utilities would make it profitable for utilities to implement GETs and distributed power plants, reducing though not eliminating, the need for expensive new transmission.

There is a quadruple win to be had by passing HB 3336 and SB 688 first, and then passing a version of HB3681 (we heard in the hearing that there are amendments in the works!) that addresses the valid concerns of farmers and others concerned about eminent domain and disruption of natural and working lands: Reduced utility costs for all, improved reliability, reduced emissions, and a reduction in conflict between different land uses.

We thank the Committee for their thoughtful attention to these important topics.

Sincerely,  
Amanda Duncan and Helena Birecki  
Co-Chairs of the Legislative Committee  
Climate Reality Project Portland Chapter

### About The Climate Reality Project Portland Chapter

The Climate Reality Project (CRP) Portland Chapter is a local, volunteer-led chapter of The Climate Reality Project, an international nonprofit of 5 million members led by climate leader and former US Vice President Al Gore, whose mission is to catalyze global solutions to the climate crisis. Our legislative committee bases its advocacy on CRP's 5 pillars: a just transition to clean energy, zero carbon transportation, climate justice and public health, green communities, and a fair, representative democracy. [climaterealitypdx.com/](https://climaterealitypdx.com/), [www.climaterealityproject.org](https://www.climaterealityproject.org)