



February 25, 2026

Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St. NE Salem Oregon 97301

Oregon Clean Grid Collaborative's Support for HB 4076-A with Amendments

Dear Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Brock Smith, and members of the committee,

The Oregon Clean Grid Collaborative (OCGC) respectfully submits the following testimony in strong support of HB 4076-A with Amendments, legislation that provides a narrowly tailored exception justification for relevant Oregon land use goals for generation projects that are able to use existing interconnection capacity. OCGC's support is grounded in the legislative intent of the bill to responsibly and efficiently expedite *renewable energy* projects that allow Oregon to meet clean energy goals.

OCGC represents environmental justice, ratepayer, conservation, labor, and clean energy advocates from across Oregon who are committed to ensuring that Oregon transitions quickly, efficiently, and equitably to clean energy. Specifically, we seek to ensure that grid planning, governance, markets, and investments are aligned to maximize the power of the grid and prioritize reliability; accelerate grid decarbonization; equitably, affordably, and reliably deliver clean energy resources to end users and prioritize community benefits; support meaningful economic development in the region that prioritizes family-wage job creation in Oregon; and minimize impacts to environmental and cultural resources.

Oregon is facing significant and inevitable load growth pressures driven by electrification, economic development, and industrial and technology expansion, such as large data centers. Transmission capacity constraints and the inability to site and permit new transmission infrastructure within reasonable timelines are among the most significant barriers to adequately scaling up clean energy to meet these needs. Interconnection queues, including lengthy timelines, missed deadlines, and volatile cost estimates, continue to stall projects and increase costs. To maintain both reliability and affordability, the state must deploy every available tool to make the most effective use of our existing infrastructure.

HB 4076-A with amendments addresses this problem by encouraging the co-location of generation with available interconnection capacity. Specifically, the bill allows both EFSC and counties to grant land use goal compliance to a proposed energy facility if the project uses surplus interconnection from an existing project and if it is limited to a 2-mile boundary around the original site certificate. Surplus interconnection is the extra transmission capacity that is available at a specific point of interconnection. This is a targeted and practical solution that prioritizes efficient use of our existing infrastructure.

Importantly, projects that take advantage of this exception are still required to go through rigorous permitting processes at EFSC or within their county of jurisdiction, ensuring continued oversight of environmental, land use, and community impacts. The legislation also encourages existing permitted sites to utilize their unused interconnection capacity to accommodate additional projects, maximizing the value of the infrastructure that has already been permitted and constructed.

By aligning project development with available transmission capacity, HB 4076-A with amendments incentivizes projects to be built where the grid can support them. This will reduce the risk that projects become stranded due to interconnection constraints, and help developers avoid delays spent building or securing interconnection, which would help stabilize costs for ratepayers and decrease the amount of interconnection buildout needed across Oregon.

At a time of rising demand and constrained infrastructure, Oregon needs to maximize the grid we already have. HB 4076-A with amendments is a balanced and smart approach that supports reliability, affordability, economic development, and responsible clean energy deployment while maintaining rigorous oversight. For these reasons, and with the clear understanding of its intended use for renewable energy resources, the Oregon Clean Grid Collaborative urges the committee to support HB 4076-A with amendments.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.

Ben Brint
Senior Climate Program Director
Oregon Environmental Council



Lauren Link
State Policy Advisor
The Nature Conservancy



Tim Miller
Director
Oregon Business for Climate



Katie Chamberlain
Regulatory Manager
Renewable Northwest



Joshua Basofin
Clean Energy Program Director
Climate Solutions

