

From: [Emily Griffith](#)
To: [Hearings Office Clerks](#)
Cc: [Nicole Hughes](#); [Diane Brandt](#); [Pam Mahon](#)
Subject: Letter on Transmission - Renewable Northwest
Date: Wednesday, January 29, 2025 10:15:35 AM
Attachments: [RNW Transmission Letter to City of Portland_29JAN2025.pdf](#)

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Hello,

Please find Renewable Northwest's letter attached for your hearing today in consideration of the Harborton Project (LU 24-041109 CU EN GW)

Thank you,
Emily Griffith

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Emily Griffith
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January 29, 2025

To: Marisha Childs, City of Portland Land Use Hearing Officer
RE: Support for new and upgraded transmission infrastructure

At Renewable Northwest, our mission is to decarbonize the region by accelerating the transition to renewable electricity. We envision a future where every home, business, and vehicle in the Northwest is powered by renewable, affordable, carbon-free electricity.

As an organization dedicated to advancing clean energy, we urge you to consider the critical importance of transmission as you evaluate Portland General Electric's proposal for the Harborton Reliability Project. Oregon utilities are not on track to meet clean energy mandates and the lack of investment in critical infrastructure is a primary driver of this lack of progress.

Independent analyses and market data show that the Pacific Northwest's transmission grid needs significant expansion. Electricity demand is projected to increase by over 30% in the next 10 years.¹ As climate change drives more extreme weather events, grid operators face increasing challenges in moving electricity from areas with surplus generation to regions experiencing severe conditions and constraints. The existing infrastructure is no longer sufficient to meet the growing demands of a clean energy future.

Energy demand across the Pacific Northwest is expected to rise substantially over the next decade as we electrify various sectors and pursue our clean energy goals. Investment in new or upgraded transmission are essential to accommodate the integration of renewable energy, such as wind and solar power, and to ensure reliable distribution across the region. Without modernized transmission infrastructure, we risk hindering the progress of our clean energy transition.

Oregonians are already facing increasing electricity costs. Any delay to investments in critical transmission infrastructure will only further aggravate this issue. A report by the Energy Systems Integration Group demonstrates the many benefits of transmission, including benefits to customer rates through reduced capital costs and other cost-saving pathways.² Equally, a study from the Brattle Group illustrates the importance of proactive transmission planning and improvements in order to maximize those potential cost savings.³

¹ [Pacific Northwest Utilities Conference Committee Northwest Regional Forecast](#)

² [Energy Systems Integration Group Report Multi-Value Transmission Planning for a Clean Energy Future](#)

³ [Brattle Group Report on Transmission - The Great Enabler: Recognizing Multiple Benefits in Transmission Planning](#)

Strengthening Oregon's power grid through transmission upgrades will also enhance our resilience to extreme weather events which are becoming more frequent and severe due to climate change. As we move toward a clean energy future, a robust and flexible transmission network will be essential for supporting the widespread use of renewable energy sources.

Renewable Northwest offers our services to the Portland City Council to better understand how supporting transmission infrastructure projects will help meet the City's clean energy goals and maintain system reliability.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kindly,



Nicole Hughes
Executive Director
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