

April 17, 2025

Sent via online submission form at portland.gov:

<https://www.portland.gov/auditor/council-clerk/lu-24-041109-cu-en-gw-written-testimony>

TO: Portland City Council

RE: **Urging City Council to uphold approval of Portland General Electric's Harborton Reliability Transmission Project**

Case File: LU 24-041109 CU EN GW

FR: Oregon Business for Climate

Dear City Council Members:

**Oregon Business for Climate** is a league of businesses across the state in a range of industries from manufacturing to agriculture to transportation to healthcare. We believe climate leadership is critical to the health of Oregon's industries and communities, and will help our state re-emerge as a leader thriving in the growing clean economy. To that end, our mission is to advance urgent, ambitious, equitable climate policies and programs designed to help spur innovation and economic opportunity while effectively and responsibly reducing emissions.

In short, we are a statewide group of businesses that see both the **imperative** and the **opportunity** of taking bold action to address climate change. We believe Oregon can and must do more to address climate change, that business plays a critical role in this progress, and that aggressive action is good for Oregon.

**Oregon Business for Climate urges your support of the Harborton Reliability Project. Oregon must strengthen its power grid to meet its growing clean energy demands, and this project is a critical link in that infrastructure.**

In our policy work, we strongly support electrification of buildings and vehicles, and the economic development that will come as Oregon continues progress toward a clean economy. At the same time, these advances place increasing demand on our electric grid. To advance our clean energy transition, we also need dramatically expanded grid capacity to move renewable energy to the areas of increasing load – from both residential and business activity. The Harborton Reliability Project is an example of this critical need, and we urge the City to recognize its critical importance.

This project is designed to upgrade vital infrastructure and enhance transmission capacity into Portland, benefiting not only the city but the entire region.

Oregonians are already feeling the effects of climate change, including severe wildfires, drought, and weather extremes. Without immediate action, these challenges will escalate, particularly for frontline communities. It is vital that we seize opportunities to build infrastructure that will support the transition to a clean energy future.

The need for this Harborton project was first identified ten years ago as part of the utility's long-term system planning. The time has come to make rapid progress on projects like this to advance our electric system's reliability and its capacity to move renewable energy throughout our state. Everyday electric usage is rising, along with increasing periods of peak demand (such as during high heat and extreme cold). This additional transmission capacity is essential as the system is projected to reach capacity limits that threaten the reliability of power in Portland and could cause outages that experts say will occur in 2028 without these improvements.

The Harborton Reliability Project will serve residential and commercial customers in North and Northwest Portland, addressing growing challenges with this 1970s-era system.

**As an organization focused on equitable, ambitious solutions to addressing climate change and accelerating clean energy, and recognizing the importance and benefits of Portland General Electric's Harborton Reliability Project, we urge the Council to uphold the decision to approve the project.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Miller", written in a cursive style.

Tim Miller  
Director  
Oregon Business for Climate