



January 13, 2025

To: Marisha Childs, City of Portland Land Use Hearing Officer

RE: Support for Portland General Electric's Harborton Reliability Project (LU 24-041109 CU EN GW)

On behalf of the Portland Metro Chamber, I am writing to express our strong support for Portland General Electric's Harborton Reliability Project. The Harborton Reliability Project is critical to achieving our mission to create opportunity and advance economic well-being for all who live and work in the Greater Portland region.

The Portland Metro Chamber (The Chamber) is greater Portland's Chamber of Commerce and represents the largest, most diverse network of businesses in the region. The Alliance advocates for business at all levels of government to support commerce, community health and the region's overall prosperity. We represent more than 2,100 members, from 27 counties, 13 states and virtually every industry sector. More than 80% of our members are small businesses.

The Chamber recognizes that this project is critical for maintaining both our economic competitiveness and our community's safety. We face increasing challenges from extreme weather events, including ice storms and heat waves that strain our energy infrastructure to its limits. Without swift implementation of the Harborton Reliability Project, our region risks an unacceptable likelihood of outages during extreme weather events when our community most desperately needs reliable power.

Moreover, this project is not just about maintaining current service levels – it represents a crucial step in our region's clean energy transition. As businesses and residents increasingly electrify their operations and daily lives, we must ensure our grid infrastructure can support this fundamental shift. The Harborton Reliability Project will enhance our capacity to convey wind, solar, and hydro energy throughout the region, supporting the urgent and necessary transition to the low carbon economy while maintaining the reliability our businesses and essential government services.

The connection between grid reliability, decarbonization, and economic vitality cannot be overstated. Power outages during extreme weather events can lead to business closures, lost productivity and compromised safety for our workforce. By strengthening our electrical infrastructure now, we protect our region's economic future while putting the necessary infrastructure in place to advance Oregon's clean energy transition.

Portland's employer community is deeply invested in our region's livability, and we understand that the Greater Portland area must remain an exceptional place to both live and work. Forest Park stands as one of our community's crown jewels, contributing to our area's quality of life, natural heritage, and economic competitiveness. The Chamber strongly values Forest Park and believes that any development within its boundaries should face rigorous scrutiny and meet the highest standards of environmental responsibility. We strongly believe that, for the future of our State and region, we can and must do both.

The Harborton Reliability Project strikes this responsible balance between the critical need for grid reliability and environmental stewardship. PGE's commitment to robust mitigation measures and their approach to enhancing the long-term health of Forest Park is an incredible demonstration of its deep commitment to honoring these core values.

For these reasons, we urge prompt approval of this critical infrastructure project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'AH', written in a cursive style.

Andrew Hoan
President & CEO, Portland Metro Chamber

CC: Mayor Keith Wilson and Portland City Council