

House Bill 3666: Wildfire Safety and Accountability Act

Escalating wildfire risk is driving up utility bills and compromising reliable electrical service. As wildfire risks continue to grow, Oregon needs clear standards for how electric companies should work to prevent wildfires and keep communities safe. Clear guidance from the state legislature and regulators is critical to utilities' ability to manage wildfire risk and provide reliable, affordable power.

HB 3666:

Requires IOUs and allows COUs to apply to the Public Utility Commission for a Wildfire Safety Certification to:

- ✓ Audit and verify that the utility is prudently implementing its PUC-approved, wildfire protection plan, which is already required by law and outlines wildfire prevention efforts like risk assessment, clearing vegetation, and system hardening;
- ✓ Confirm the utility's commitment to wildfire safety and continuous improvement; and
- ✓ Hold utilities accountable by requiring them to explain wildfire mitigation actions not taken and why, and ensure the utility addresses any safety audit deficiencies.

If the PUC issues a safety certificate, the certification establishes that the utility is implementing wildfire safety practices and is materially consistent with its approved wildfire mitigation plan. This action is consistent with the ability of state agencies to establish, implement and enforce safety standards. The certificate can be used in court as one piece of evidence weighed by the judge or jury and does not make a utility immune from lawsuits.

Support HB 3666 to protect affordable, reliable power and economies across Oregon

