

COIN Legislative Session Worksheet for 2025

Bill Number and Title: [HB 3666](#) - Utilities and Wildfire Liability

What is your recommendation for this bill? Oppose

Brief Description of Bill: HB 3666 requires electric public utilities to apply for a wildfire safety certification. It allows consumer-owned utilities to apply for the certification, too. The Public Utility Commission will then issue a certification if the applicant has and implements a “wildfire protection plan” or “wildfire mitigation plan” and meets certain requirements. This certification, however, would potentially immunize utilities from liability for wildfires they cause. The PUC can grant applications for wildfire safety certifications based on utility’s plans, but the certificate is good for a year and there’s no provision for requiring them to carry out their plan. We think it’s a scam to protect utilities from responsibility.

Name of Point Person who completed this form: Debi Ferrer

Email address if you are willing to be contacted with questions about this bill:
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Last Updated: 3/8/2025

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1. Bill topic – highlight which category best fits your bill:

Climate, Energy, Environment	Housing / Houselessness
Campaign Finance Reform	Immigration / Social Justice
Healthcare	Education
Transportation	Economics
Criminal Justices	Gun Safety
Other: Wildfire	

2. The bill’s Chief Sponsors: Representative Marsh, Mannix

Regular Sponsors: Representative Kropf

3. The bill’s legislative opponents: Possibly Representative Cate, who has sponsored [HB 3161](#) to prohibit the PUC from increasing a public utility’s rates if the public utility has outstanding liabilities from wildfire litigation. She believes her bill has been sidelined by supporters of HB 3666.

4. What advocacy groups are supporting this bill and why are they supporting it? Provide contact information if available. Oregon’s big monopoly utilities — PacifiCorp’s Pacific Power and Portland General Electric (PGE) — support this bill. Public utilities and electric coops also

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support this bill as these certificates of safety will likely grant them some immunity from liability for wildfires caused by their equipment or transmission lines. Proponents of the bill say it will create standards for wildfire prevention work undertaken by utilities, which would result in safer communities and help the utilities stay insured by avoiding costly lawsuits.

5. What groups are opposing this bill and why are they opposing it? Oregon Trial Lawyers Association opposes it. They claim that the certificates will act like a “Get Out of Jail Free” card for utilities. They could argue they had “acted reasonably” even if they were responsible for starting catastrophic fires like those in 2020 that killed 11 people and destroyed 4,000 homes. [Oregon Capital Chronicle 2-27-25: Bill on wildfire prevention work could give utilities immunity from lawsuits](#)

6. Why should COIN endorse, oppose, or watch this bill? COIN should oppose this bill because it protects large wealthy corporate power companies at the expense of Oregonians. According to Oregon Capital Chronicle 2-27-25, “despite a jury verdict and settlements with hundreds of victims, PacifiCorp has never accepted its responsibility for starting the 2020 Labor Day fires and the Oregon Public Utility Commission has never investigated, both sore points for survivors.” COIN does not believe the Oregon Legislature should further immunize PacifiCorp and others, especially when many of them are earning record profits.

7. What is the likelihood this bill will pass? How much effort should we put towards it? I think this bill has a good chance to pass, as the utilities are a powerful lobby group and they are fully behind this bill. So, I think it’s very important that we strongly oppose it.

8. List the relevant dates concerning the bill: Nothing scheduled yet.

9. Please list any specific advocacy action you would like COIN to help with, any media contacts that may be helpful or any other important information? It is currently in the House Judiciary Committee, and has not been scheduled for a hearing, but we need to watch it and be prepared to submit a LOT of testimony should it be given a hearing. In the meantime, some of our members have reached out to Chief Sponsor, Rep Pam Marsh, to express their disappointment that she is sponsoring this bill.