From: <u>Carolyne Holcomb</u>
To: <u>Hearings Office Clerks</u>

**Subject:** CEIC Letter of Support for Harborton Reliability Project

**Date:** Monday, January 27, 2025 11:40:56 AM

Attachments: CEIC Letter of Support - Harborton Reliability Project.docx.pdf

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Please find the Central Eastside Industrial Council's letter of support regarding PGE's Harborton Reliability Project.

Sincerely,

Carolyne

Carolyne Holcomb (pronounced Caroline)
Executive Director

CEIC | Central Eastside Together

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January 27, 2025

Bureau of Development Services, City of Portland 1900 SW Fourth Avenue Portland, OR 97201

## **RE: Expression of Support for the PGE Harborton Reliability Project**

The Central Eastside Industrial Council (CEIC) writes to express its support for the Portland General Electric (PGE) Harborton Reliability Project.

The CEIC is dedicated to serving its members' business interests by advocating for a vibrant, safe, prosperous, and welcoming district. Established in 1980, the CEIC represents businesses within the Central Eastside Industrial District (CEID), a dynamic 700-acre area comprising 22% of Portland's Central City, from I-84 to Powell Blvd and the Willamette River waterfront to 12th Ave. This district is home to 1,300 businesses and 22,000 employees contributing significantly to Portland's economic vitality.

As stakeholders deeply invested in Portland's future, we strongly support PGE's efforts to address a critical bottleneck in delivering reliable, renewable energy from solar, wind, and hydropower facilities to the North, East, and South metro areas.

The Harborton Reliability Project, which involves upgrading an existing transmission line and adding a new one that is adjacent and also within established utility right-of-way, represents a necessary and prudent infrastructure investment. Reliable electric service is foundational to Portland's economic stability, and this project directly supports that need. We have seen the consequences in other regions that failed to invest in their power infrastructure, and we cannot afford to make the same mistake.

Without these critical improvements, our region faces a significant risk of power outages by 2028—just three years away. To meet this timeline, construction must begin in 2025 to ensure the project is completed by the end of 2027.

While CEIC member companies have no direct financial stake in this project, we collectively advocate for the benefits of a modern, reliable grid that supports the well-being of our families, employees, and the broader community.

We respectfully urge swift approval of the Harborton Reliability Project for the benefit of Portland.

Sincerely,

Carolyne Holcomb Executive Director

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Central Eastside Industrial Council