



## WASHINGTON LEGISLATIVE **CLEAN ENERGY SITING** PRIORITIES

### **The challenge: we need more clean energy.**

**New clean energy projects can take years to build.** That's why most new clean energy projects—and the jobs that come with them—are being built in other states where the process is simpler and quicker. Unfortunately, Washington currently ranks last in renewable energy growth.<sup>1</sup>

**This is because projects are often stalled by litigation and long permitting timelines, which greatly increase costs.** Environmental review is critical for preserving wildlife and habitat and protecting Tribal cultural resources, but the state should ensure these processes are timely and predictable and make sure that consultation and information gathering happens upfront.

**Transmission stands as another hurdle.** Once a project is complete, it still needs to connect to the grid. But the Pacific Northwest grid is aging, the queue to connect projects to the grid is significantly backed up, and new transmission lines can take over a decade to become operational.<sup>2</sup>

## To keep energy costs low, create living-wage jobs, and meet the mandate of our nation-leading climate policies, Washington must be able to build and move new clean energy.

Washington needs to double its supply of clean electricity by 2050 to meet growing demand, keep costs low, and ensure a reliable, resilient grid. The rising energy needs of data centers in the Pacific Northwest are making this an even greater issue.<sup>3</sup>

### We can fix this now.



Strengthen Washington's existing transmission through streamlined permitting for upgrades (SB 5466).

Upgrades include advanced reconductoring, rebuilds, and grid enhancing technologies. This will allow more clean energy to connect to the grid, can reduce wildfire risk, and mitigates the need for new lines, which have a greater impact on the environment.



Establish a state transmission entity to support the build-out of new lines (SB 5466).

Washington needs thoughtful planning, cost-effective public financing, and partnering with private entities for construction.



Ensure clear, consistent, efficient permitting processes.

Provide expedited permitting and streamlined review via the state-led EFSEC process to clean energy and transmission projects that have minimal impacts. This must be paired with effective Tribal consultation.

1 <https://www.propublica.org/article/oregon-washington-green-energy-bonneville>

2 <https://www.bpa.gov/-/media/Aep/transmission/evolving-grid/042723-evolving-grid-bpat-final.pdf>

3 [https://app.leg.wa.gov/ReportsToTheLegislature/Home/GetPDF?fileName=2023BiennialEnergyReport\\_Final\\_Approved\\_97baa6be-4da3-4d0a-9f6a-efab82d2ec5f.pdf](https://app.leg.wa.gov/ReportsToTheLegislature/Home/GetPDF?fileName=2023BiennialEnergyReport_Final_Approved_97baa6be-4da3-4d0a-9f6a-efab82d2ec5f.pdf)