



February 12, 2014

Co-Chairs Devlin and Rayfield, Members of the Committee,

The Oregon Municipal Electric Utilities Association (OMEU) appreciates the opportunity to submit this testimony to the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources regarding SB 5510, the budget of the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE).

### **Who are we?**

Eleven of Oregon's municipally owned and operated electric utilities joined to form the OMEU via an intergovernmental agreement authorized by ORS 190. OMEU supports the collective interests of its members and their customer owners at the state legislature, state agencies, various trade associations and the Bonneville Power Association (BPA).

### **OMEU Priorities – Affordable, Reliable and Safe Energy**

Over 100 years ago, advocates of public power fought to form municipal utilities. Today, municipally owned utilities are governed by their city council or utility board comprised of community members who set rates, regulatory policies, develop programs and services and respond to the specific customer needs – with the primary focus of enabling delivery of affordable, reliable, and safe electricity.

### **Energy Supplier Assessment**

OMEU members have concerns regarding the Energy Supplier Assessment (ESA) that ODOE uses to pay for costs that are not covered with grant funding or fees for services. OMEU remains hopeful that productive discussions may result in attaining some “side boards” on how ODOE may use ESA funds.

OMEU member utilities strive to keep rates as low as possible, but added costs may likely be passed on to ratepayers in the form of higher rates.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

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Oregon Municipal Electric Utilities Association

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