



April 1, 2015

Representative John Lively, Chair  
House Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Lively and Members of the Committee,

The Oregon Municipal Electric Utilities Association (OMEU) appreciates the opportunity to submit this testimony to the House Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness regarding HB 3386 creating the Oregon Public Utility Homeland Security Commission and fund.

**Who are we?**

Eleven of Oregon's municipally owned and operated electric utilities joined to form 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.

**Disaster and Emergency Preparedness**

We appreciate Representative Evans bringing forth House Bill 3386 and supporting utilities planning for disaster and emergency management.

With regard to emergency preparedness, OMEU and other consumer and utilities are currently working with the American Public Power Association (APPA) and their Mutual Aid Working Group (MAWG) which has participants from every state in the nation. MAWG has the benefits of lessons learned from Super Storm Sandy and other events. MAWG also features an active list serve facilitated by APPA which enables active alerts regarding emergency situations that may require assistance from neighboring regional or more distant utilities.

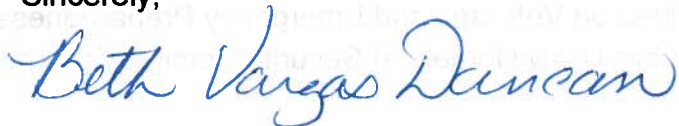
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APPA and MAWG are great resources for information sharing regarding mutual aid agreements; compliance with FEMA requirements; emergency guidance documents; and materials that public utilities can use to educate their customers about disaster and emergency preparedness.

Representatives from OMEU and the Oregon People's Utility District Association (OPUDA) routinely participate in joint Engineering and Operations Committee meetings where emergency management and disaster planning is always an item on the agenda. This enables OMEU and OPUDA members to continuously share new information and updated emergency management plans with each other as well as their customers.

Again, we appreciate the recognition and support offered in HB 3386. Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Beth Vargas Duncan, Executive Director  
Oregon Municipal Electric Utilities Association