



April 2, 2015

Representative Shemia Fagan, Chair
House Committee on Consumer Protection and Government Effectiveness
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Fagan and Members of the Committee,

The Oregon Municipal Electric Utilities Association (OMEU) appreciates the opportunity to submit this testimony to the House Committee on Consumer Protection and Government Effectiveness regarding HB 2987 which would remove the requirement for contracting agencies to hold in account or otherwise reserve moneys for green energy technology in public building construction or major renovation if including green energy technology in such a project is not appropriate.

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.

Green Technology

OMEU staff participated in the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) rulemaking activities related to this topic of reserving funds for green technology in construction, reconstruction or major renovation of public buildings. As noted during that process, it is feasible that a situation may arise where green technology is not appropriate. As a result, HB 2987 allows public bodies in such circumstances to unencumber the related public funds.

1201 COURT ST. NE, SUITE 102 • SALEM, OREGON 97301 • 971-600-6976 • bvargasduncan@omeu.org

We appreciate Representative Holvey's recognition of this issue and bringing forth HB 2987 to remedy the situation. Thank you for the opportunity to comment. We urge support of HB 2987. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Beth Vargas Duncan, Executive Director
Oregon Municipal Electric Utilities Association