



TESTIMONY OF BETH VARGAS DUNCAN,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, OREGON MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC UTILITIES

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND EARLY
CHILDHOOD

MAY 19, 2015

Chair Gelser, and Members of the Committee, I am Beth Vargas Duncan, Executive Director of Oregon Municipal Electric Utilities Association (OMEU). I appreciate the opportunity to be here today and speak in regard to HB 2599.

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

Starting 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 maintaining current authorities enabling delivery of affordable, reliable and safe electricity.

HB 2599 Amendment

OMEU testified in agreement to the language of HB 2599A before the House Committee on Consumer Protection and Government Effectiveness and noted that one additional amendment would need to occur in the Senate.

OMEU staff understands all interested parties agree to the -3 amendment indicating that the Consumer Owned Utilities (COUs) should report the requested policies to their respective governing bodies (e.g. city council, boards or commissions) rather than the Oregon Department of Energy. This amendment will make the COUs'

reporting similar to the requirement in the bill, that the investor owned utilities (IOUs) report their policies to the Oregon Public Utility Commission which governs the IOUs. This amendment did not occur in the House simply due to time limitations.

Thank you for your time and attention. I am happy to answer any questions.

Beth Vargas Duncan, Executive Director
Oregon Municipal Electric Utilities Association