



February 17, 2016

Representative Vega Pederson, Chair
House Committee on Energy and Environment
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: SB 1547A

Chair Vega Pederson and Members of the Committee,

The League of Oregon Cities and the Oregon Municipal Electric Utilities Association (OMEU) appreciate the opportunity to submit this testimony to the Senate Committee on Business and Transportation for SB 1547A regarding a clarification to the definition of “public utility” in ORS 757.

The League of Oregon Cities includes all 242 cities within Oregon, and eleven of Oregon’s municipally owned and operated electric utilities joined to form OMEU.

We have worked together with proponents of HB 1547A to arrive at the agreed language reflected in the bill.

The definition of a “public utility” per ORS 757.005 exempts municipal electric utilities from the definition of a “public utility.” The language in HB 1547A represents a consensus among the parties to clarify the Public Utility Commission’s limited authority over Oregon cooperative electric utilities and people’s utility districts (PUDs).

The definition in ORS 757.005 is referenced in other statutes and should not be changed because doing so would have unintended consequences. With HB 1547A, the language in ORS 757.005 will not be changed; it maintains the current exemption language for municipal electric utilities, it creates a new section to clarify the exemption for cooperative electric utilities and PUDs, and it does not interfere with statutes outside of ORS 757.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Tracy Rutten, Staff Associate
League of Oregon Cities
trutten@orcities.org

Beth Vargas Duncan, Executive Director
Oregon Municipal Electric Utilities Association
bvargasduncan@omeu.org