



Oregon Citizens' Utility Board

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March 6, 2017

To: House Committee on Energy and Environment
From: Janice Thompson, Advocacy Director
Re: Support for HB 2134, as amended

Oregon Citizens' Utility Board (CUB) advocates for residential ratepayers through a least cost/least risk lens that is informed by a strong commitment to addressing the needs of low-income utility customers. This last point is why CUB has long supported energy assistance for utility customers facing financial hardships and why we fully support HB 2134 with the housekeeping amendment that addresses technical clarifications.

CUB is pleased to join Community Action Partnership of Oregon (CAPO), PGE, and PacifiCorp in support of this legislation. The Oregon Energy Assistance Program (OEAP) benefits those PGE and PacifiCorp customers in need of energy assistance. It is important to note, however, that the utility system benefits by reducing costs of shut-offs. Given the system benefit of HB 2134, comprehensive financial support from all utility sectors for OEAP is appropriate.

I regret that I cannot attend today's hearing in person. Let CUB's absence, however, not detract from our message of firm support for HB 2134, as amended.