

Advocates for the West
Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians
AirWorks, Inc.
Alaska Housing Finance Corporation
Alliance to Save Energy
Allumia
Alternative Energy Resources Organization
American Rivers
A World Institute for a Sustainable Humanity
Beneficial State Bank
BlueGreen Alliance
Bonneville Environmental Foundation
Centerstone
Citizens' Utility Board of Oregon
City of Ashland
City of Seattle Office of Sustainability & Environment
Climate Solutions
Community Action Center of Whitman County
Community Action Partnership Assoc. of Idaho
Community Action Partnership of Oregon
Drive Oregon
Earth and Spirit Council
Earth Ministry
Ecova
eFormative Options
Emerald People's Utility District
Energy Savvy
Energy Trust of Oregon
Environment Oregon
Environment Washington
HEAT Oregon
Home Performance Guild of Oregon
Home Performance Washington
Housing and Comm. Services Agency of Lane Co.
Human Resources Council, District XI
Idaho Clean Energy Association
Idaho Conservation League
Idaho Rivers United
Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns
League of Women Voters Idaho
League of Women Voters Oregon
League of Women Voters Washington
Montana Audubon
Montana Environmental Information Center
Montana Renewable Energy Association
Montana River Action
National Center for Appropriate Technology
Natural Resources Defense Council
New Buildings Institute
Northern Plains Resource Council
Northwest Energy Efficiency Council
NW Natural
NW SEED
OneEnergy Renewables
Opower
Opportunities Industrialization Center of WA
Opportunity Council
Oregon Energy Coordinators Association
Oregon Environmental Council
Oregonians for Renewable Energy Policy
OSEIA
Pacific Energy Innovation Association
Pacific NW Regional Council of Carpenters
Portland Energy Conservation Inc.
Portland General Electric
Puget Sound Advocates for Retired Action
Puget Sound Cooperative Credit Union
Puget Sound Energy
Renewable Northwest
Save Our wild Salmon
Sea Breeze Power Corp.
Seattle Audubon Society
Seattle City Light
Seinergy
Sierra Club
Sierra Club, Idaho Chapter
Sierra Club, Montana Chapter
Sierra Club, Washington Chapter
Small Business Utility Advocates
Smart Grid Northwest
Snake River Alliance
Solar Installers of Washington
Solar Oregon
Solar Washington
South Central Community Action Partnership
Southeast Idaho Community Action Partners
Spokane Neighborhood Action Partners
Sustainable Connections
The Climate Trust
The Energy Project
UCONS, LLC
Union Of Concerned Scientists
United Steelworkers of America, District 12
US Green Building Council, Idaho Chapter
Washington Environmental Council
Washington Local Energy Alliance
Washington State Department of Commerce
Washington State University Energy Program
YMCA Earth Service Corps



April 10, 2017

Representative Ann Lininger, Chair, House Committee on Economic
Development and Trade
Members, House Committee on Economic Development and Trade

Re: Opposition of HB 3142

Dear Chair Lininger and Members of the Committee,

The NW Energy Coalition is writing today in opposition to HB 3142. The NW Energy Coalition is an alliance of about 100 environmental, civic and human service organizations, progressive utilities and businesses in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana and British Columbia. We work primarily in the electric and natural gas sectors to promote development of renewable energy and energy conservation, consumer protection, low-income energy assistance, and fish and wildlife restoration on the Columbia and Snake Rivers.

HB 3142 would utilize funds collected from customers of Portland General Electric (PGE) and Pacificorp, that are currently entrusted to the Energy Trust of Oregon and used for purposes related to reducing system costs of these utilities, to create a brownfield clean up loan fund.

The Energy Trust of Oregon currently provides programs that help customers of these two utilities reduce energy costs, increase productivity, contribute health and safety benefits, and reduce environmental impacts including greenhouse gas reductions. The Energy Trust is model organization that produces significant results for Oregon households, businesses and industry. The Oregon Public Utility Commission oversees the organization and the current programs and management are effective and thorough – ensuring that utility customer resources are spent efficiently and effectively to reduce system costs and individual consumer bills.

The loan fund called for using public purpose charge dollars in this bill is an improper use of these customer funds. This type of fund diversion is considered to run afoul of the uniform taxation clause of the Oregon Constitution. Furthermore, because these funds are provided by PGE and Pacificorp customers, using money from electricity customers in one part of the state for programs outside those utility territories violates not only the legislated purpose of these funds, but also general principles of just use of funds. Lastly, diversion to this loan program would subject Energy Trust of Oregon, and the funds themselves, to unacceptable risk that is frankly unrelated to the intended legislative purpose of these funds.

For these reasons, we respectfully ask you to oppose HB 3142. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W Gerlitz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of the first name being a large, stylized 'W'.

Wendy Gerlitz
Policy Director