



April 17, 2017

Senator Lee Beyer, Chair  
Senate Business and Transportation Committee  
Oregon State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301

**Re: Senate Bill 909**

Chair Beyer and Members of the Committee,

We write in opposition to Senate Bill 909 as threatening to negatively impact energy efficiency and renewable energy deployment in the state, as well as the Energy Trust of Oregon's ability to make a sizeable dent in our state's carbon footprint. Maintaining a well-resourced Energy Trust of Oregon through a public purchase charge that is not artificially stifled is a powerful tool to realize the clean energy future our Governor and Oregonians around the state want.

State-level action to reduce greenhouse gases is urgently needed to address the ongoing risks to public safety, our environment, our climate, and local economy posed by climate change. Oregon is transitioning from coal and other fossil fuels to clean, renewable energy. As part of that transition, Oregon should support its own home-grown, low-cost renewable energy and energy efficiency programs that save homeowners and business owners energy costs, help maintain our competitive edge, and create local jobs.

Investment in energy efficiency produces more than 3x as many jobs as the fossil fuel industry. Energy Trust of Oregon energy efficiency projects provided the following benefits for Oregon from 2002-2015:<sup>1</sup>

- \$1.3 billion invested resulting in \$5.6 billion customer savings on utility bills over time;
- Added \$3.9 billion to the state's economy;
- Kept more than 14.6 million metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> out of the air.

SB 909 would harmfully limit the public purchase charge that currently funds energy conservation in homes, businesses and schools, renewable energy projects and low income home weatherization and low income housing rehabilitation and construction. SB 909 also seeks to limit the rate of return for utilities outside the Public Utility Commission's established process, which could negatively impact the utilities' ability to attract long-term investment that keeps them solvent, and may not be constitutional. For these reasons, we oppose SB 909.

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<sup>1</sup> Energy Trust of Oregon, "2015 Annual Report," [http://assets.energytrust.org/api/assets/reports/PublicAnnualReport\\_2015\\_Final.pdf](http://assets.energytrust.org/api/assets/reports/PublicAnnualReport_2015_Final.pdf)

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,



Meredith Connolly  
Oregon Policy Manager  
Climate Solutions

**About Climate Solutions:** Climate Solutions is a regional non-profit working to accelerate practical and profitable solutions to global warming.

[ClimateSolutions.org](http://ClimateSolutions.org)

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