



Oregon's Poverty Fighting Network

May 8, 2017

**TO:** House Committee on Energy and Environment  
**FROM:** Community Action Partnership of Oregon  
**RE:** Support for SB 100

Chair Helm and members of the committee,

Community Action Partnership of Oregon (CAPO) is the State Association for Oregon's Community Action network of Community Action Agencies (CAAs). CAAs offer an extremely wide variety of programs that serve low-income children, families, and seniors in all 36 counties across Oregon. These include services such as: emergency food and shelter, rent payment assistance, energy assistance, and weatherization.

CAPO supports SB 100 and its direction to transfer State Home Oil Weatherization (SHOW) from the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) to Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS).

SHOW, created in 1981 from Oregon's Residential Energy Conservation Act (HB 2246), serves Oregon households that receive space heating from a fuel oil dealer by providing them assistance and technical advice for saving energy at home. Currently, ODOE provides cash payments up to \$2,500 to Community Action Agencies for the installation of specified conservation measures.

Weatherization assistance programs provide conservation services, health and safety repairs, heating system repair and replacement, base-load measures, and energy education to households. To better and more efficiently deliver services, and to save on administrative overhead, Oregon has created a suite of weatherization programs at OHCS.

Presently, there are three federally funded programs administered from OHCS: Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), US Department of Energy Weatherization Assistance Program (DOE-WAP), and the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA). Additionally, a public purpose charge funds the Energy Conservation Helping Oregonians (ECHO) program, also a part OHCS's suite of programs. **Transferring SHOW would allow for the State of Oregon, and Community Action Agencies, to work together to better align and leverage current low-income energy programs.**

OHCS and the Community Action Agencies have used their longstanding relationship to build, from the original DOE-WAP program, a robust system to deliver the highest quality services. This partnership has created a highly technical market that could easily incorporate SHOW into the delivery system. It is because of the existing relationship with OHCS, with continued collaboration, that Oregon is best served by the transfer of SHOW.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Janet Merrell'.

Janet Merrell  
Executive Director