

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



May 15, 2017

Chair Lee Beyer and Members of the Senate Committee on Business and Transportation
Oregon State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Re: HB 2134A

Dear Chair Beyer and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the NW Energy Coalition, I am writing to express support for HB 2134A pertaining to low income electric bill payment assistance.

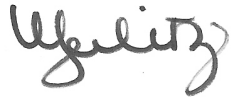
The NW Energy Coalition is an alliance of about 100 environmental, civic and human service organizations, progressive utilities and businesses in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana and British Columbia. We promote development of renewable energy and energy conservation, consumer protection, low-income energy assistance, and fish and wildlife restoration on the Columbia and Snake Rivers.

Unfortunately, far too many households in Oregon struggle to pay their electric bills – sometimes forcing people to make the choice between heating their home or eating. This is not a choice anyone should have to make. Energy assistance funding provided through electric utility funds to Community Action Agencies throughout the state works to alleviate these burdens for low-income households. The Community Action Agencies utilize these funds to target assistance to vulnerable households, while also working with these people to educate them about conserving electricity, budgeting and other useful tools to help raise these families out of poverty.

HB 2134A maintains current funding for the Oregon Energy Assistance Program (OEAP) by allowing a temporary fund of \$5M/year collected by the PUC to sunset and then increasing the base amount of energy assistance funds collected by the PUC from \$15M/year to \$20M/year. This will maintain the current level of funding for the Oregon Energy Assistance Program.

These funds also help to reduce electric utility system costs by preventing shutoffs and billing defaults. Investments in OEAP help provide important benefits and service related to electric service in Oregon. Please support HB 2134A to ensure these services continue at the current level.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W Gerlitz". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Wendy Gerlitz
Policy Director