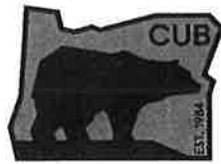


Mark



Support HB 2134A Help families in Oregon heat their homes

As a community, we all thrive when everyone has the opportunity to succeed, and success starts with a safe and healthy home. Seniors, people with disabilities and households squeezed by rents that surpass their wages continue to be forced to choose between paying for rent, food and electricity.

Community Action Agencies across Oregon efficiently provide services that improve the conditions of as many households as possible so that our communities can thrive; this includes making sure Oregonians have energy in their home.

Energy assistance is one of many important services and supports that Community Action Agencies provide to help stabilize families and build healthy communities. In addition to energy assistance, agencies provide households with education on how to conserve energy and budget for expenses. They also provide weatherization services that help to ensure homes are efficient, warm, safe and secure.

The benefit of energy assistance extends far beyond help with utility bills. It helps stabilize rates by reducing the costs of shut-offs. It also helps qualified, low-income Oregonians use their limited resources to pay their rent or mortgage, afford medicine and purchase food for their families. **By preventing shut-offs and restoring service, energy assistance helps Oregonians stay warm, healthy and safe in their homes.**

Maintaining the current level of funding for the OEAP will prevent over 10,000 homes from losing access to power in the PGE and Pacific Power service areas. It does not require any general fund investment.

HB 2134A maintains current funding for the Oregon Energy Assistance Program (OEAP) by making a temporary fund of \$5M permanently part of the OEAP.

- HB 2134A sunsets the temporary fund of \$5M/year collected by the PUC, and then
- Increases the base amount of energy assistance funds collected by the PUC from \$15M/year to \$20M/year
- HB 2134A also gives the Oregon Public Utility Commission the ability to adjust the rate for OEAP collections to keep the fund as close to \$20M as possible

United support for HB 2134A

Community Action Partnership of Oregon (CAPO), PGE, Pacific Power, and Citizens' Utility Board have come together to support HB 2134A which will prevent over 10,000 shut-offs per year throughout PGE and Pacific Power territory while lowering utility costs and helping families in Oregon stay warm and in their homes.