



January 29, 2018

Representative Ken Helm, Chair
House Energy and Environment Committee
Oregon State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Re: HB 2242

Chair Helm and Members of the Committee,

We write in support of HB 2242. Climate Solutions is a regional non-profit working to accelerate clean energy solutions to the climate crisis.

Climate Solutions participated in the Public Utility Commission (PUC) process implementing Senate Bill 978. SB 978 recognized that there is a sea change occurring in the electricity sector caused by response to climate change and the significant shift from fossil fuel based generation like natural gas and coal, to renewable energy integrated by distributed and utility scale storage. Accordingly, SB 978 directed the PUC to conduct a public process exploring how investor owned utilities are regulated and can adapt to these significant changes.

The public process identified as its two top priorities (1) the need for the PUC to better integrate climate change and make decisions based on the imperatives of climate change, and (2) the need to better support and hear from environmental justice and low income customer advocates in PUC proceedings. HB 2242 addresses that latter issue. It would provide more authority to the PUC to provide rate designs, such as discounts, that protect low income customers as well as provide more resources and financial support for advocates for environmental justice and low income customers to meaningfully participate and advocate in PUC proceedings. Finally, it would create a new position of Low Income and Environmental Justice Advocate with the PUC. These changes would improve the PUC process and better protect low income and environmental justice communities.

Please vote "yes" on HB 2242! Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

David Vant Hof
Consultant to Climate Solutions