

Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians
AirWorks, Inc.
Alaska Housing Finance Corporation
Alliance to Save Energy
Allumia
Alternative Energy Resources Organization
Ameresco
American Rivers
Backbone Campaign
Beneficial State Bank
BlueGreen Alliance
Bonneville Environmental Foundation
Byrd Barr Place
City of Ashland
City of Seattle Office of Sustainability & Environment
CleanTech Alliance
Climate Smart Missoula
Climate Solutions
Community Action Center of Whitman County
Community Action Partnership Assoc. of Idaho
Community Action Partnership of Oregon
Earth and Spirit Council
Earth Ministry
Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon
eFormative Options
Energy350
EnergySavvy
Energy Trust of Oregon
ENGIE Services U.S.
Enhabit
Environment Oregon
Environment Washington
EQL Energy
Forth
Global Ocean Health
Green Energy Institute at Lewis & Clark Law School
Homes for Good
Home Performance Guild of Oregon
Human Resources Council, District XI
Idaho Clean Energy Association
Idaho Conservation League
Idaho Rivers United
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
Multnomah County Office of Sustainability
National Center for Appropriate Technology
National Grid
Natural Resources Defense Council
New Buildings Institute
Northern Plains Resource Council
Northwest EcoBuilding Guild
Northwest Energy Efficiency Council
NW Natural
OneEnergy Renewables
Opportunities Industrialization Center of WA
Opportunity Council
Oracle
Oregon Citizens' Utility Board
Oregon Energy Fund
Oregon Environmental Council
Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility
Oregon Solar Energy Industries Association
Pacific Energy Innovation Association
Pacific NW Regional Council of Carpenters
Portland General Electric
Puget Sound Advocates for Retired Action
Puget Sound Cooperative Credit Union
Renewable Northwest
Save Our *wild* Salmon
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
Snohomish County PUD
Solar Installers of Washington
Solar Oregon
Solar Washington
South Central Community Action Partnership
Southeastern Idaho Community Action Agency
Spark Northwest
Spokane Neighborhood Action Partners
Sustainable Connections
The Climate Trust
The Energy Project
Transition Missoula
UCONS, LLC
Union Of Concerned Scientists
United Steelworkers of America, District 12
Washington Environmental Council
Washington Local Energy Alliance
Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility
Washington State Community Action Partnership
Washington State Department of Commerce
Washington State University Energy Program
YMCA Earth Service Corps
Zero Waste Vashon



NW Energy Coalition
for a clean and affordable energy future

January 28, 2019

Chair Helm and Members of the House Energy &
Environment Committee

Oregon State Capitol Salem, OR 97301

Re: HB 2242

Dear Chair Helm and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the NW Energy Coalition, I am writing to express our strong support for HB 2242, which will advance work to broaden participation in regulatory processes and better consider the interests of low-income and underserved customers in utility regulation at the Public Utility Commission (PUC).

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.

The Coalition has a long history of working to advance clean and affordable energy in Oregon, specifically engaging regularly in processes at the Public Utility Commission. Recently, we participated in the proceeding initiated by Senate Bill 978 to examine the utility business

model. This process was one of the best we have experienced at the PUC – probably due to the diverse participation and richness of the dialog that this diversity engendered.

HB 2242 will make three legislative changes, recommended in the PUC’s report to the legislature at the conclusion of the 978 process, that will help make lasting improvements to the regulatory process. Specifically, HB 2242 will:

- 1) Provide the PUC with the authority to authorize rate designs and other utility programs to improve service to low-income and other underserved customers. HB 2242 does not mandate specific changes, but calls for the PUC to hold a public process to explore changes that work for customers and utilities.
- 2) Provide access to intervener funding for customer groups that represent low-income and other underserved customers through the same process that existing customer groups use. This will help provide some partial support for groups who choose to engage in the regulatory process and stimulate a greater diversity of voices in the regulatory process.
- 3) Create a Low-Income and Environmental Justice Advocate within the PUC to represent the interests of these customers directly in utility regulatory proceedings.

These legislative actions form a package that will make meaningful progress toward improving how our regulatory system serves the needs of low-income and other underserved customers in Oregon. We urge you to support HB 2242.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W Gerlitz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "W" and a long, sweeping underline.

Wendy Gerlitz
Policy Director