

April 2, 2019

Chair Helm House Energy and Environment Committee Oregon Legislative Assembly 900 Court St. NE Salem, OR 97301

RE: HB 3094 - Establishes Home Weatherization, Retrofit and Affordability Program

Dear Chair Helm and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 3094 which looks to establish the Home Weatherization, Retrofit, and Affordability Program within Oregon Housing and Community Services.

Portland General Electric serves 1.9 million customers in Oregon, representing about half of the state's population. Around 1/5 of our residential customers struggle to pay their bills each month and qualify for bill assistance or other services. Several thousand more are just outside the limits for assistance. This program would assist those customers who need extra funds in order to make much needed weatherization improvements to their homes or multifamily units.

Energy efficiency improvements can save customers up to 30% per year on their utility bill. And in addition to cost savings, weatherization and other energy efficiency improvements have been shown to improve health outcomes and increase housing stability. As the state moves forward with reducing its carbon footprint and addressing climate change, it is imperative that weatherization and energy efficiency be part of the solution for all of our customers.

The HomeWRAP Program provides another tool in the toolbox for addressing the needs of our low- and moderate-income customers and we urge your support.

Respectfully submitted,

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Sania Radcliffe

Government Affairs and Environmental Policy Director