



Founded in 1968, the Oregon Environmental Council (OEC) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, membership-based organization. We advance innovative, collaborative and equitable solutions to Oregon's environmental challenges for today and future generations.

**Testimony to the House Committee on Energy and Environment
Morgan Gratz-Weiser, Legislative Director, Oregon Environmental Council**

Oregon Environmental Council supports HB 2494.

Oregon's commitment to energy efficiency with the passage of 1149 many decades ago put Oregon on the map with responsible, effective energy policy that saves ratepayers money, while create a resilient and reliable energy system. The creation of the Public Purpose Charge has created opportunities for homes, small businesses, schools, agriculture and industry to upgrade buildings and install energy-saving measures.

The energy crisis of the 1970's taught us that reducing reliance on any energy source enhances resiliency. The same is true for electricity and natural gas—the less we use, the more adaptable we are.

The Energy Trust of Oregon has been an effective steward of energy efficiency dollars. They provide easy-to-understand information for consumers, provide technical assistance to individuals, businesses, schools and agriculturalists. They've also helped with the development of small-scale renewable energy projects.

Energy efficiency is also a critical strategy for addressing climate change. The energy we don't use is the cheapest, cleanest, most valuable resource. The Northwest Power and Conservation Council's 7th Power Plan also shows it's a large part of meeting future energy demand—but only if we maintain what we have in place. If we lose ground on energy efficiency, customers will have to pay more to build more resources. That would be much more costly.

According to the most recent annual report, the Energy Trust of Oregon:

- Saves \$3 for every \$1 spent.
- Energy savings and renewable energy generation in 2017 kept 320,000 tons of CO₂ out of the atmosphere, equal to taking 56,500 cars off the road for a year.
- Has exceeded administrative cost performance benchmarks established by the Oregon Public Utility Commission.
- Consistently gets high consumer satisfaction ratings.

HB 2494 extends these benefits and the high value Oregon gets from the programs enabled by the public purpose charge.