



# Oregon Citizens' Utility Board

610 SW Broadway, Suite 400  
Portland, OR 97205

(503) 227-1984  
[www.oregoncub.org](http://www.oregoncub.org)

June 10, 2019

To: Natural Resources Subcommittee  
Joint Committee on Ways and Means

From: Janice Thompson, Deputy Director-Oregon Citizens' Utility Board (CUB)

Re: Support for SB 5545 and Oregon Department of Energy

I am writing to convey the support of the Oregon Citizens' Utility Board (CUB) for the Oregon Department of Energy and SB 5545.

Oregon voters created CUB via a 1984 ballot measure to advocate for residential customers of utility services in proceedings before the Public Utility Commission and in legislative policy matters related to telecommunications and energy.

CUB believes a state agency whose sole focus is on energy is needed and we have long supported the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE). Our rationale is well summarized by ODOE's mission: *Leading Oregon to a safe, clean, and sustainable energy future*. The statewide focus of ODOE is especially important since energy needs and issues vary across Oregon and extend beyond areas served by major utilities.

ODOE has been a helpful partner to CUB and others seeking information about Oregon's energy systems. ODOE's biennial energy report serves a valuable educational function and lays the groundwork for policy development discussions across the spectrum of energy issues.

Energy efficiency is a particular priority for CUB, and we want to highlight ODOE's research and analysis regarding efficiency options. Energy efficiency is particularly important for our low-income neighbors and ODOE provides a needed statewide perspective regarding the energy burden on these Oregonians.

As a customer advocate, CUB is also appreciative of the role that ODOE plays on consumer protection issues, again with a necessary statewide range.

To conclude, CUB urges support of SB 5545 and funding for ODOE.