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RE: Support for HB 4067

Dear Chair Power, Vice-Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Reschke and members of the House Energy and Environment Committee

My name is Eli Spevak, owner of Orange Splot LLC. I am a developer and general contractor, building mixed income housing communities in the Cully neighborhood of Portland, OR. Going back 25 years, I have developed over 250 units of affordable housing through Habitat for Humanity, Human Solutions, and the Housing Development Center. As a volunteer, I currently chair Portland's Planning and Sustainability Commission, which assists in the equitable shaping of land use, transportation policies and energy policies for the City of Portland. As an individual and representative of my company, I would like to offer my full support for the passage of HB 4067.

This critical measure will allow utilities to establish separate rate classes for low-income customers. Energy prices continue to climb in Oregon. And they're likely to continue doing so as utilities invest (appropriately) in technologies to decrease climate impacts associated with energy generation.

Low-income Oregonians shouldn't shoulder the brunt of these changes. It's essential that those least able to bear higher energy costs are sheltered so they don't get into situations of choosing between keeping the heat on vs. paying rent, food or medical bills. Establishing rate classes also acknowledges that lower income Oregonians often lack the ability to upgrade to more efficient energy equipment because they rent and/or can't afford the equipment cost.

I also strongly support the portion of this bill that provides financial support for organizations that represent low-income residents to advocate on their behalf as utilities establish rate classes. *In fact, I'd recommend that one seat on the PUC be designated for a representative of low-income communities to ensure that equity impacts are front-and-center in all of the work of the PUC.*

To go beyond the scope of this legislation, please also:

- *Ensure that energy efficiency and/or estimated energy bills are disclosed to potential tenants so they can factor this in to their rental decision*
- *Expand low income weatherization programs and introduce financing mechanisms for low income Oregonians to upgrade to more efficient water and space heating systems.*

Thank you for your work on this key legislation, and I look forward to seeing it signed into law during this short session.

Best,

Eli Spevak
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