



February 20, 2020

Senator Michael Dembrow, Chair
Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
Oregon State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Re: HB 4067-A - SUPPORT

Chair Dembrow and Members of the Committee,

We write in support of HB 4067-A. Climate Solutions is a regional non-profit working to accelerate clean energy solutions to the climate crisis.

Climate Solutions participated in the Public Utility Commission (PUC) process implementing Senate Bill 978 from the 2018 session. SB 978 recognized that there is a sea change occurring in the electricity sector caused by industry trends, technologies, and policy drivers including the significant shift from fossil fuel based generation like natural gas and coal, to renewable energy. Accordingly, SB 978 directed the PUC to conduct a public process exploring how investor-owned utilities are regulated and can adapt to these significant changes.

The public process identified as its two top priorities (1) the need for the PUC to better integrate greenhouse gas reduction considerations into decision-making and make decisions based on the imperatives of climate change, and (2) the need to better support equitable outcomes for all customers and hear from environmental justice and low income customer advocates in PUC proceedings. HB 4067-A addresses that latter issue.

HB 4067-A would provide more authority to the PUC to provide rate designs, such as discounts, that protect low income customers as well as provide more resources and financial support for advocates for environmental justice and low income customers to meaningfully participate and advocate in PUC proceedings. These changes would improve the PUC process and better support low income and environmental justice communities.

Please vote "yes" on HB 4067-A! Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Zachariah Baker
Oregon Policy Manager