

March 16th, 2021

VOTE YES ON HOUSE BILL 2475: THE OREGON ENERGY AFFORDABILITY ACT

From the desk of Representative Maxine Dexter, House District 33

Dear Colleagues,

It has never been more clear that affordable access to energy is essential to all of our health and well-being. My patients who need oxygen supplementation and/or non-invasive positive pressure ventilatory support (commonly known as CPAP or BIPAP, most often used for sleep apnea) frequently need letters from their doctors asserting why they cannot have their electricity turned off. For them, not being able to power their medical devices is a life-threatening situation. In the pandemic we all spend more on home heating and electricity than usual. Shutoff moratoriums and low-income energy assistance have helped; My own mother is a recipient of such assistance. But low-income energy burden is not being fully addressed, especially in rural Oregon counties.

House Bill 2475 is the result of years of work from a broad range of stakeholders, many of whom have their logo printed below. The bill will allow the Public Utility Commission to create rate structures, such as discounts based on income level, that will add a vital tool in the effort to eliminate energy burden. The bill will also allow organizations representing rural and coastal communities, low-income Oregonians, and Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) to access intervenor funding to weigh in on critical energy decision making processes at the Public Utility Commission. I urge you to join me in voting yes on House Bill 2475 today.

--Representative Maxine Dexter, House District 33

SUPPORTED BY:

