

May 13th, 2021

VOTE YES ON HOUSE BILL 2475 A:

THE OREGON ENERGY AFFORDABILITY ACT

From the desk of Senator Kayse Jama, Senate District 24

Dear Colleagues,

It has never been more clear that affordable access to energy is essential to all of our health and well-being. In the midst of a pandemic, people are using more electricity at home to access services and stay connected. At the same time, many have lost incomes and jobs, and as bills go up there is less ability to pay. And, the problem of energy burden has impacted low-income Oregonians since before the pandemic and is most widespread in rural parts of the state as well as diverse districts like mine. Energy burden is an issue that affects every one of our districts and HB 2475-A is a win we can all celebrate.

HB 2475-A 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. We need new, more sustainable strategies to supplement the important crisis support that energy assistance provides. 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.

--Senator Kayse Jama, Senate District 24

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