

Dear Chair Marsh, Vice Chair Brock Smith, Vice Chair Helm and members of the Committee,

My name is Nina Kung. My family and I live in the Portland Metro Area. We support HB 2475 because it means equitable energy access for health, safety, basic self care, community capacity building, and equitable community representation.

This means low income seniors, include many with disabilities, can afford winter heating. It means folks with sleep apnea, hay fever, dust allergy, COPD, and asthma, can operate medical devices for steady oxygen supply, to sleep through the night. These chronic health conditions are common in low income neighborhoods subjected to pollutions of air, water, and land.

Energy equity also means families without enough income from work during the pandemic winter wouldn't have to wear ski outfits indoors, found at Goodwill, to keep our electric heaters on low settings. It means folks can continue to job search online with computers and WiFi modems plugged in. It means access to doctors visits with language interpreters, through video conferencing. It also means low income college students can attend classes and do homework online. It further means low income essential workers, immigrants, refugees, rural and remote communities, can plug in for video calls to families far away. It means we and our Native American brothers and sisters can have information access through radio, TV, and digital devices. This is crucial for pandemic survival, relief and emergency coordination. Equitable energy access also means being able to access library books, magazines, arts and music, online, so we don't have anxiety or depression during social isolation in pandemics. This conserves healthcare resources for medical emergencies. It further means low income essential workers, who need to work long hours to support families and the economy, can still be represented by direct community service organizations for affordable energy access.

For your consideration on equitable energy access, please also refer to the Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility testimony, from Feb. 2020, in support of the Energy Affordability bill, HB 4067A.

Thank you, Chair Marsh, Vice Chair Brock Smith, Vice Chair Helm, and members of the Committee for supporting Energy Affordability, HB 2475.

Sincerely,

Nina Kung

Oregon Resident