



March 2, 2021

Joint Committee on Ways & Means
Subcommittee on Natural Resources
900 State Street NE, Room H-178
Salem, OR 97301

RE: *SB 5515*

Committee Members,

On behalf of the Northwest Energy Efficiency Council (NEEC), I am writing to express our support for the Oregon Department of Energy, and our strong support for maintenance of adequate funding for its operations.

For the last several years, NEEC has served on the Energy Advisory Work Group (EAWG) convened by the Oregon Department of Energy. As the only trade association representing the interests of the energy efficiency industry in the Pacific Northwest, we have appreciated the opportunity to share the perspective of the businesses we represent through this work group. We appreciate the positive direction the agency has taken under the stewardship of Director Janine Benner and are enthusiastic regarding the agency's strategic planning efforts. We believe a robust state department of energy is critical to successfully and efficiently administering the state's energy policy.

We appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kerry Meade".

Kerry Meade
Executive Director,
Northwest Energy Efficiency Council