

Dear President Marsh, Vice President Brock Smith, ViceChair Helm and members of the committee.

My name is Diana Delgado, I'm part of Energy Justice and Adelante Mujeres. I have being an active advocate for the community for the past years.

I support HB 2475 and I believe this bill will help Oregon families afford their energy bills through lower rates for the residential rate payers with lower incomes who most need the relief. I deeply believe my Hispanic community and other low income and people of color will have less burden to pay electric bill.

Having more affordable electric bills will have a positive impact in my life. Not having to worry about using my AC during Summer or the heater during Winter will make me feel less stressful about paying high electric bills, It will also make me feel less stressful about my families health and about deciding whether to pay my electric bill or use it for food, rent or other bills.

Bills for electricity are higher during the seasons of Summer and Winter. Dealing with high electric bills right now during COVID 19 is very stressful and a struggle. I work with the Hispanic Community, and many of them owe months of electric bill because of their low pay jobs. Having our kids all day at home have increase the usage of electricity, cooking, tv, internet, heaters and AC'S. Our need of electricity have increase while our earnings have decrease.

Eight years ago I started feeling sick, I couldn't breath, had itchy eyes and headaches. At first I thought they were allergies because it only happened during Winter. I noticed that my kids were getting similar symptoms during the Winter as well. Due to our economic situation we had no choice but not to use our heaters, resulting in having mold in our window or walls event hough we cleaned them with bleach we didn't know this didn't completely destroy the mold. three years pasted and we continued with what we thought was allergies, until a section of our wall from our bedroom started to smell horrible and had visible spots from mold. I didn't know I had the right to ask my lender for help to deal with the mold problems. The renter lender ended up removing sheetrock from the wall in my bedroom. Half of that wall was removed because underneath that sheetrock it was totally infested by mold. With a couple of weeks we started felling better, breathing better, with no headaches or itchy eyes.

It was a difficult decision deciding what was more important paying for rent or sleeping warmer. At the time we didn't know this could affect our health.

This shouldn't be a decision to hesitate. Lowering the electric bills should be decided by the Government and giving equity to low income families. People with dasabilities, elderly people, low income families shouldn't have to be paying for more than what they can afford. Industrial companies should have to pay a higher taxes and bills for their electricity. Equity should be implemented.

There is also inequity for mobile homes that are not on many solar projects.

Thank you Chair Marsh, Vice Chair Bock Smith, ViceChair Helm and members of the committee for supporting Energy Affordability HB 2475

Sincerely:

Diana Delgado