

Chair Beyer, Vice-Chair Findley, and Members of the Senate Committee on Energy & Environment,

My name is Sarah Rohrs and I live in Salem, Oregon. I am writing to use you to vote yes on House Bill 2475 A as it currently stands and to move it forward to the Senate floor with a do pass recommendation.

Please do not adopt the “-A11” amendments, which would defeat a major purpose of this bill by substantially limiting intervenor funding for environmental justice stakeholders and existing Public Utility Commission intervenors like the Citizens’ Utility Board.

Oregonians have faced many hardships and challenges in the last two years. Shouldering a huge energy burden was already a major issue before the pandemic. It’s even worse now. Low-income communities, especially those living in rural areas as well as Black, Indigenous, and people of color, have the highest rates of energy burden in Oregon.

This is not right and I urge you to take decisive action. House Bill 2475 A will allow the Public Utility Commission to adopt rate structures that help solve the issue of unaffordable energy bills. It will also remove barriers to communities who wish to offer input on energy decision making in Oregon.

Sincerely,
Sarah Rohrs
Salem, Oregon