

Dear Chair Marsh, ViceChair Brock Smith, ViceChair Helm and members of the Committee,
My name is Mikhaila "Micah" Bishop, I am from Wilsonville, and I am a member of the grassroots youth climate justice group Sunrise Movement. I am a trans man living in a household of 6, ages 18 to 22, under the 40,000 poverty line. I support HB 2475 because as we are experiencing paying bills for the first time, it is transparently clear how energy companies capitalize on people's need for heat in the winter time to drive up prices and exploit family incomes. HB 2475 will help Oregon families afford their energy bills through lower rates for the residential ratepayers with lower incomes who most need the relief. Also, this bill participates in the important concept of a "just transition" : It also allows organizations who represent low income and environmental justice communities to better participate in decisions about energy that affect their lives; It ensures that the people who know best how to address the challenges of their everyday lives to shape the solutions. As we struggle to keep our heating costs down, things like "delivery fees" keep going up, fees that are totally out of our control as consumers. Heating and cooling should be accessible and affordable with all the technology and resources that currently exist, and the fact that they are not is a testament to "profit over people" economy. Will you side with profits, and extractive energy companies, or with the workers of Oregon, who deserve clean and affordable energy to survive?