

Thank you Chair Marsh, Vice Chairs Helm and Brock Smith and members of the Committee for the chance to submit comments on H.B. 2475. I am a constituent of Rep. Moore Green.

350 Salem Oregon supports passage of H.B. 2475 as introduced. We are a local grassroots climate organization that is affiliated with 350.org.

Even though equity rates for low income residential customers may seem remote from climate change, it is important that these customers be insulated from utility costs associated with adapting to climate change or with reducing greenhouse gas emissions. They tend to have lower energy use and therefore a lower carbon footprint than other customers.

Many of these customers live in neighborhoods that experience more hazardous air quality than most middle or high income neighborhoods. They often live in floodplains or in rural areas at risk from wildfires. They pay a far greater share of their income on utility costs than higher income customers. The current programs for bill assistance for low income customers fall far short of the needs. Better equity for these customers is long overdue.

H.B. 2475 will also provide the P.U.C. the opportunity to provide lower rates for customers who have been hit with the economic fallout of the Covid pandemic.

As an energy policy analyst for the state, I worked with or worked for the P.U.C. for 37 years. The P.U.C. commissioners and staff are highly professional and can be trusted to integrate this new flexibility with their other rate making duties. H.B. 2475 will also provide intervenor funding for groups representing low income customers to help the P.U.C. implement the new law.

Thanks for the opportunity to submit comments.

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350 Salem Oregon