



To: Chair Marsh, Vice Chairs Helm and Brock Smith; Members of the House Committee on Energy & Environment

From: Tracy Rutten Rainey, League of Oregon Cities

Date: February 22, 2021

RE: Support for HB 3141

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 3141. This legislation will make important modifications to Oregon's public purpose charge. The League of Oregon Cities is very much supportive of the extension of the sunset on this program for an additional ten years (to January 1, 2036).

Oregon's public purpose charge was initially enacted in 1999. That legislation, SB 1149, required Portland General Electric and Pacific Power to charge an amount equal to 3% of each electric company's revenue that would be paid by each retail customer. The funds generated from the public purpose charge are used for energy efficiency, the development of renewable energy and for low-income weatherization projects. The LOC is particularly supportive of the role that the Energy Trust of Oregon (ETO) has played to make critical investments of public purpose charge dollars in local communities.

Extending the sunset on this program will provide increased certainty, including for local governments that are, or may soon be, engaging in long-term efficiency and clean energy projects. While there are many examples of local government success stories related to this program and funding resource, the city of Gresham's wastewater treatment plant continues to serve as a model for what these funds can help to accomplish. In 2015, the city's wastewater treatment plant became the first water resource recovery facility in the Pacific Northwest to achieve net-zero energy consumption. This accomplishment was made possible with help from the ETO, including investments in energy efficiency, solar generation, and anaerobic digestion of wastewater solids. By adopting these clean energy technologies, and making the plant more energy efficient, it is our understanding that the city is saving approximately \$500,000 a year in electricity costs.

We urge the committee's support of extending this important program and thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 3141.