

This is testimony in support of the Oregon Energy Affordability Act, HB 2475.

This fall our old gas furnace broke yet again, and we are in the process of replacing it with an all-electric system including a high efficiency heat pump. Because of a series of glitches and complications, we have been without a functioning furnace for several periods of consecutive days. The temperatures in the house have never fallen below the mid-50s which is not life threatening (despite what the cats think!), but it was a reminder of how hard it is to be fully functional when cold. Your energy drops, and you just want to hibernate. Our children are grown, but I can't imagine how challenging it would be to care for children in a cold house.

HB2475 should be passed to ensure that all Oregonians are able to afford to heat their homes. This Act will give the Public Utility Commission the authority to allow utilities to design discounts and other measures to reduce energy burden for low-income or other under-served customers, and will improve representation for these groups in the regulatory process.

We Oregonians often make abstract statements about wanting to promote justice and dismantle systemic racism. This is one concrete and meaningful thing that we can do to begin to deliver on those goals.

Thank you for considering my testimony on behalf of the Oregon Energy Affordability Act.

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