

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Item 46: Department of Energy Financial Oversight

To: Ways and Means Full Committee
From: Natural Resources Subcommittee
Carrier: Senator Dembrow

The Natural Resources Subcommittee recommends that the Joint Interim Committee on Ways and Means defer action on the request to the 2024 legislative session.

The Oregon Department of Energy requested two permanent management positions in finance and procurement to provide increased financial oversight. The Department received 40 positions during the 2023 legislative session to support the administration of \$250 million in new energy and climate incentive programs. The Legislature approved limited duration position authority in critical areas of the administration with the understanding that changes may be needed later as more information becomes available.

As the Department continues to develop the new programs, the need for additional administrative resources is becoming more evident. The new incentive programs are anticipated to operate for 8 to 12 years. This extended duration and the increased workload warrant the consideration of a more permanent finance and procurement structure. Because of this, the Department is recommended to first work with the Chief Financial Office and Legislative Fiscal Office to develop a more comprehensive administrative staffing plan for consideration during the 2024 session.

The Natural Resources Subcommittee recommends approval.