

HB 3459: Testimony in Support

Chair Marsh, Vice-Chair Bobby Levy, and Vice-Chair Emerson Levy,

I am writing to express my support for **HB 3459**, which would protect low-income Oregonians from being disconnected from essential utilities.

HB 3459 prioritizes the wellbeing of vulnerable households, especially those in which children and/or seniors live. Insufficient heating and access to utilities can cause a number of detrimental health impacts to which youth and elderly are more susceptible. This legislation would address not only a household's energy burden but also their quality of life.

In addition, by increasing communications between utility companies and community action agencies regarding customer payments, this legislation would allow for increased household awareness of and access to energy assistance. Through this proactive approach to addressing a household's income status or other applicable demographic, fewer families will be at risk of imminent disconnection.

I urge you to vote **YES** on **HB 3459** and prevent unnecessary utility disconnections.

Sincerely,

John Detweiler

Deschutes County