

Submitter: Rebecca Warren

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure: HB3459

Testimony Template for HB 3459

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

Thank you for this opportunity to express my support of HB 3459, which would protect vulnerable Oregonians from being disconnected from heat and electricity.

My name is Rebecca Warren and I live in Portland, Oregon. As a practicing United Methodist, I firmly believe in our Social Principles which advocate on behalf of vulnerable persons in all communities. HB 3459 aligns with these values. Heat and electricity are basic human rights, and no one should be denied these utilities simply because they do not have sufficient funds. As we experience extreme weather temperatures more, the need for this legislation increases.

HB 3459 would protect all low-income Oregonians from energy utility disconnections in winter months (Oct 1 - Mar 31), protect low-income households with children and/or seniors from disconnection year-round, and increase coordination between utility companies and community action agencies, as well as maintain a \$5 million increase in energy assistance funds.

Disconnections endanger the lives and well-being of the vulnerable.

For these reasons, I urge you to support HB 3459 to ensure access to heat and electricity for all.

Thank you.

Rebecca Warren

Portland, Oregon