

REPRESENTATIVE ANNESSA HARTMAN (SHE/HER)
HOUSE DISTRICT 40



OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Chair Marsh, Vice-Chairs Levy and Levy, Members of the Committee,

By statute, Pacific Power and PGE pay an average of \$20 million annually into the Oregon Energy Assistance Program (OEAP), which OHCS administers to Community Action Agencies to provide financial assistance to Pacific Power and PGE customers facing shutoffs. In response to the pandemic, the legislature worked with PP and PGE to increase funding by another \$15 million through 2024 (HB 2739), provided that the extra money went to people facing hardship due to COVID.

HB 3459 -4 amendment that is posted on OLIS does two things. First, it removes HB 2739's requirement that funds only go to people who faced hardship related to the COVID-19 pandemic. (Now households making at or below 60% state median income would qualify for assistance.) Second, it extends the sunset to 2026.

The -5 amendment, coming shortly, will incorporate the -4 amendment and change the additional \$15 million amount instead to an additional \$5 million. This is the additional contribution that both PGE and Pacific Power have agreed to continue to put into the Oregon Energy Assistance Program that originally arose through HB 2739.

I urge your pass out of committee. Thank you for your time.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Annessa Hartman".

Representative Annessa Hartman
House District 40 – Gladstone, Oregon City, North Clackamas County