



February 12, 2024

Representative Paul Holvey, Chair
House Committee on Business and Labor
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Oregon Municipal Electric Utilities Association Support for HB 4050

Dear Chair Holvey, Vice Chair Elmer, Vice Chair Sosa and Members of the House Committee on Business and Labor:

Oregon Municipal Electric Utilities Association (OMEU) is made up of eleven municipally owned and operated electric utilities. Our rates are not-for-profit and set to cover the costs of service, not to earn a rate of return for investors.

OMEU strongly supports HB 4050. Electric utilities have a labor shortage for many key positions, including line workers and engineers. During the pandemic, some utilities were able to take advantage of the temporary authority granted to use hiring and retention bonuses. As you know that authority has since expired.

HB 4050 is a small change to the pay equity law that will allow us to address a legitimate business necessity. Giving us the tools to hire and retain employees will ensure we can continue to power our communities.

Thank you for supporting HB 4050.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jennifer Joly

Jennifer Joly, Director
Oregon Municipal Electric Utilities Association

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