



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Public Utility Commission

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October 30, 2025

Senator Kate Lieber & Representative Tawna Sanchez
Co-Chairs, Joint Interim Committee on Ways & Means
Oregon State Legislature

Via Email:

Amanda Beitel, Legislative Fiscal Officer (amanda.beitel@oregonlegislature.gov)

Cc: Ben Ruef, Legislative Fiscal Analyst (ben.ruef@oregonlegislature.gov)

Cc: Sione Filimoehala, DAS Policy & Budget Analyst (sione.filimoehala@das.oregon.gov)

Subject: 2025-27 Agency Reduction Options for the Oregon Public Utility Commission

Dear Co-Chairs Lieber & Sanchez,

Pursuant to the October 1, 2025, memoranda from the Legislative Fiscal Office (LFO) and the Department of Administrative Services Chief Financial Office (CFO), the Oregon Public Utility Commission (PUC) respectfully submits its 5% reduction options and list of new and expanded programs for the 2025–27 biennium.

The PUC regulates the state's investor-owned electric and natural gas utilities, landline telephone service providers, and select water utilities to ensure that Oregonians have access to safe, reliable, and fairly priced services. Through fact-based, transparent, and inclusive regulatory processes, the PUC advances state policy priorities including affordability, decarbonization, reliability, and customer protection.

In developing its reduction plan, the PUC prioritized preserving core safety, affordability, and consumer protection functions; maintaining compliance with legislative and statutory mandates; and minimizing adverse effects on Oregon consumers and utility operations. Because approximately 63% percent of PUC's Limited Other Fund budget is personal services and an additional 13% consists of Attorney General Fees, State Government Service Charges, and Lease Expenditures, reductions can only be achieved through delayed hiring or holding positions vacant, directly reducing program capacity.

The Commission remains committed to working with the Legislative Fiscal Office, DAS Chief Financial Office, and the Governor's Office to identify solutions that maintain accountability to ratepayers while balancing statewide fiscal constraints.

Sincerely,

Nolan Moser, Executive Director
Oregon Public Utility Commission

Oregon Public Utility Commission																
2025-27 Biennium																
2025-27 LAB					-	-	78,777,898	-	-	-	78,777,898					
Detail of Reductions to 2025-27 Legislatively Adopted Budget																
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Priority (ranked most to least preferred)		Agency	SCR or Activity Initials	Program Unit/Activity Description	GF	LF	OF	NL-OF	FF	NL-FF	TOTAL FUNDS	Pos.	FTE	Gov. Reduction Target Yes / No	One-Time Yes / No	Describe the reduction and associated impact on services and outcomes. Please identify the source of Other Funds reductions.
Dept	Prgm/ Div															
Exec Office	Utility	86000	1	Position Freeze for Vacancy Savings: UA3 PPBD# 110850			386,355				\$ 386,355	1	1.00	No	Yes	Provides technical and policy analysis for one Commissioner, prepares meeting materials, and coordinates stakeholder engagement. Without this role, decision preparation would slow, regional collaboration would decrease, and Commissioners' ability to respond to legislative or regional utility matters would be limited.
Exec Office	Utility	86000	1	Position Freeze for Vacancy Savings: Econ4 PPBD# 2500118			317,637				\$ 317,637	1	0.79	No	Yes	Supports the Executive Director and Commissioners in analyzing affordability data and coordinating implementation of HB 3179 across divisions. Elimination would weaken internal economic capacity, reduce cross-program coordination, and delay Commission decision-making on affordability issues.
Energy	Utility	86000	1	Position Freeze for Vacancy Savings: UA3 PPBD# 645			263,848				\$ 263,848	1	0.92	No	Yes	This position provides essential analytical flexibility across multiple Energy Program units, supporting implementation of new legislation and responding to emerging workload demands. The PUC is determining which legislative mandate will need the extra support, and eliminating this position would remove the agency's only adaptable analyst resource at a time when new policy assignments continue to emerge mid-biennium.
Energy	Utility	86000	1	Position Freeze for Vacancy Savings: UA3 PPBD# 2700115			251,855				\$ 251,855	1	0.88	No	Yes	This position is responsible for drafting rules governing third-party microgrid interconnection studies and ensuring secure data exchange between utilities and contractors. Without it, the PUC would miss statutory deadlines for implementing HB 2065 and delay private-sector investment in microgrid and energy-resilience projects.
Wildfire Mitigation	Utility	86000	1	Position Freeze for Vacancy Savings: UA3 PPBD# 2700104			287,834				\$ 287,834	1	1.00	No	Yes	Conduct field verification and data analysis of utility wildfire mitigation investments. Without these positions, the PUC would lose the capacity to validate whether utility projects align with areas of highest wildfire risk, weakening consumer protection and public safety oversight.
Wildfire Mitigation	Utility	86000	1	Position Freeze for Vacancy Savings: UA3 PPBD# 2700103			287,834				\$ 287,834	1	1.00	No	Yes	Conduct field verification and data analysis of utility wildfire mitigation investments. Without these positions, the PUC would lose the capacity to validate whether utility projects align with areas of highest wildfire risk, weakening consumer protection and public safety oversight.

Oregon Public Utility Commission																
2025-27 Biennium																
2025-27 LAB					-	-	78,777,898	-	-	-	78,777,898					
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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Priority (ranked most to least preferred)		Agency	SCR or Activity Initials	Program Unit/Activity Description	GF	LF	OF	NL-OF	FF	NL-FF	TOTAL FUNDS	Pos.	FTE	Gov. Reduction Target Yes / No	One-Time Yes / No	Describe the reduction and associated impact on services and outcomes. Please identify the source of Other Funds reductions.
Dept	Prgm/ Div															
Wildfire Mitigation	Utility	86000	1	Position Freeze for Vacancy Savings: UA3 PPBD# 2700102			287,834				\$ 287,834	1	1.00	No	Yes	Conduct field verification and data analysis of utility wildfire mitigation investments. Without these positions, the PUC would lose the capacity to validate whether utility projects align with areas of highest wildfire risk, weakening consumer protection and public safety oversight.
Wildfire Mitigation	Utility	86000	1	Position Freeze for Vacancy Savings: OPA4 PPBD# 2700101			310,760				\$ 310,760	1	1.00	No	Yes	Leads the newly established Wildfire Auditing and Safety Validation Unit. Elimination would prevent the PUC from coordinating field audits of utility wildfire mitigation plans, leaving the state without a mechanism to ensure \$2 billion in ratepayer-funded wildfire spending achieves measurable safety outcomes.
Exec Office	Utility	86000	1	Position Freeze for Vacancy Savings: PAS2 PPBD# 2700105			274,575				\$ 274,575	1	1.00	No	Yes	Expands the agency's communications capacity to manage increased media inquiries and improve public understanding of PUC decisions. Elimination would constrain timely public communication about rate cases, safety actions, and legislative implementation, reducing transparency and stakeholder trust.
Energy	Utility	86000	1	Position Freeze for Vacancy Savings: UA3 PPBD# 2300110			247,221				\$ 247,221	1	0.79	No	Yes	This position provides essential analytical flexibility across multiple Energy Program units, supporting implementation of new legislation and responding to emerging workload demands. The PUC is determining which legislative mandate will need the extra support, and eliminating this position would remove the agency's only adaptable analyst resource at a time when new policy assignments continue to emerge mid-biennium.
Energy	Utility	86000	1	Position Freeze for Vacancy Savings: UA3 PPBD# 2700120			215,875				\$ 215,875	1	0.75	No	Yes	This position manages consultant research, stakeholder processes, and metric development for performance-based utility regulation. Elimination would halt design of Oregon's new performance incentive framework, preventing alignment of utility revenues with outcomes like reliability, efficiency, and emissions reduction.
Energy	Utility	86000	1	Position Freeze for Vacancy Savings: UA3 PPBD# 2700116			251,855				\$ 251,855	1	0.88	No	Yes	This position develops Oregon's first comprehensive microgrid regulatory framework, including standards for ownership, compensation, and safety. A reduction would prevent the PUC from meeting the 18-month legislative deadline, delaying deployment of community microgrids that improve resilience during power shutoffs and emergencies.

2025-27 Biennium

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8,777,898

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Priority (ranked most to least preferred)		Agency	SCR or Activity Initials	Program Unit/Activity Description	GF	LF	OF	NL-OF	FF	NL-FF	TOTAL FUNDS	Pos.	FTE	Gov. Reduction Target Yes / No	One-Time Yes / No	Describe the reduction and associated impact on services and outcomes. Please identify the source of Other Funds reductions.
Dept	Prgm/ Div															
Energy	Utility	86000	1	Position Freeze for Vacancy Savings: Econ4 PPBD# 2700119			224,960				\$ 224,960	1	0.75	No	Yes	These positions support implementation of HB 3179 (FAIR Act) by developing rules and economic analyses for multiyear rate plans and cumulative affordability metrics. Without them, the PUC cannot complete required rulemakings or evaluate affordability impacts of rate proposals, delaying consumer protections and compliance with statutory deadlines.
Energy	Utility	86000	1	Position Freeze for Vacancy Savings: Econ4 PPBD# 2700118			224,960				\$ 224,960	1	0.75	No	Yes	These positions support implementation of HB 3179 (FAIR Act) by developing rules and economic analyses for multiyear rate plans and cumulative affordability metrics. Without them, the PUC cannot complete required rulemakings or evaluate affordability impacts of rate proposals, delaying consumer protections and compliance with statutory deadlines.
RSPF	RSPF	86000	3	Position Freeze for Vacancy Savings: PA3 PPBD# 2700117			233,829				\$ 233,829	1	0.92	No	Yes	Implements the Oregon Lifeline device benefit program and oversees compliance with new federal and state requirements. Without this position, rollout of the \$100 device benefit would be delayed, limiting access to essential communications technology for low-income Oregonians.
				TOTAL	-	-	4,067,232	-	-	-	\$ 4,067,232	15	13.42			

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128,337

Public Utility Commission 2025-27 Biennium
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Detail of Programs in the 2025-27 Legislatively Approved Budget that have been established or expanded since 2021-23
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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Agency	SCR	Program Establishment / Expansion			Program Description	GF	LF	OF	NL-OF	FF	NL-FF	TOTAL FUNDS	Pos.	FTE	Implementation Status
		Biennium	Effective Date	Authorization											
86000	1	23	7/1/2021	SB 762	Establishment-Wildfire Mitigation			408,844				\$ 408,844	1	1.00	Existing position filled in September 2024 with work on WMPs and emergency response support ongoing.
86000		27	7/1/2025	POP 104(AY27)	Expansion-Wildfire Mitigation			1,189,242				\$ 1,189,242	4	4.00	PDs submitted to Mandy and awaiting final submittal for DAS review.
												\$ -			
86000	1	23	7/1/2021	HB 2021	Establishment-Clean Energy Program			2,054,102				\$ 2,054,102	6	5.25	Positions filled, ongoing oversight of utility implementation of emissions reduction requirements and clean energy planning requirements will continue on an ongoing basis through 2040 or later including: investigation to develop near-term guidance for utility clean energy plans complete, rulemaking to adopt near-term procedural requirements for clean energv plans complete, rulemaking for more permanent
86000	1	25	7/1/2023	POP 103 (AY25)	Expansion-Clean Energy Program; convert LD/PT positions to PF			1,370,037				\$ 1,370,037	4	4.75	See above
												\$ -			
86000	3	23	7/1/2021	POP 101(AY23)	Expansion-OTAP			1,394,381				\$ 1,394,381			Completed process and business mapping. Finalizing contract extension for detailed functional requirements document.
86000	3	27	7/1/2025	HB 3148	Expansion-OTAP			1,977,012				\$ 1,977,012	1	0.92	Met with DOJ and began scoping and creating a timeline for rulemaking. New program implementation date is 12/1/2026.
												\$ -			
86000	1	27	7/1/2025	HB 3179	Expansion-Residential Rate Analysis			463,653				\$ 463,653	2	1.50	Positions not filled. Rulemaking to begin by end of 2025 per PUC Staff's legislative implementation work plan.
												\$ -			
86000	1	27	7/1/2025	HB2065	Establishment-Microgrids			335,136				\$ 335,136	1	0.88	Positions not filled. Rulemaking planned in 2027 or later per PUC Staff's legislative implementation work plan.
												\$ -			
86000	1	27	7/1/2025	HB 2066	Establishment-Microgrids			410,136				\$ 410,136	1	0.88	Position not filled. Rulemaking to begin by end of 2025 per PUC Staff's legislative implementation work plan.
												\$ -			
86000	1	27	7/1/2025	SB 688	Expansion-Performance Based Rate Making			974,013				\$ 974,013	1	0.75	Contracts executed for technical consultant and facilitation consultant. Position not filled. Rulemaking planned to begin by end of 2025 per PUC Staff's legislative implmentation work plan.
												\$ -			
86000	1	25	7/1/2025	POP 101 (AY25)	Establishment-Energy Systems Engineering			900,133				\$ 900,133	3	3.00	Three positions were filled, however two vacancies exist at this time. New work supporting technical activities including interconnection, DSP, gas blending, net metering, large loads has been ongoing in a limited due to reduced staff at this time.
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												\$ -			
					TOTAL	-	-	11,476,689	-	-	-	\$ 11,476,689	24	22.93	

Instructions

Column (5) - Authorization should identify the source of the new program or program expansion, which could include enabling legislation, approved policy option package, or administrative establishment.

Column (6) - Program description should include a summary of the program and the expansion (if applicable), including any partner state agencies.

Column (16) - Current status of program implementation should be summarized, including any future budget requests anticipated upon full program implementation.