



February 5, 2025

Representative John Lively, Chair
House Committee on Climate, Energy & Environment
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Consumer-Owned Utilities' Amendment Request to HB 2064

Dear Chair Lively, Vice Chair Gamba, Vice Chair Levy and Members of the House Committee on Climate, Energy & Environment:

Oregon Municipal Electric Utilities Association (OMEU) is made up of eleven municipally owned and operated electric utilities. Eugene Water & Electric Board (EWEB) is the state's largest consumer-owned utility (COU). The Oregon People's Utility District Association (OPUDA) includes all of Oregon's six PUDs. The Oregon Rural Electric Cooperative Association (ORECA) represents 18 electric cooperatives. Together we serve well over 500,000 Oregonians. As COUs we are directly accountable to the people we serve through our city councils and local governing boards. Our rates are not-for-profit and set to cover the costs of service, not to earn a rate of return for investors.

We have been working with the chief sponsor and bill proponents on amendments to HB 2064 to ensure recognition of the local governance model for COUs. Specifically, our local boards are responsible for setting our rates. The Public Utility Commission has no rate-setting jurisdiction over COUs.

To address this oversight, we respectfully request that the Committee adopt the following amendments:

- On p. 1, line 22, after "microgrid" insert "within an investor-owned utility service territory."
- On p. 2, line 40, after "Public Utility Commission" insert "or, for a consumer-owned utility, the local utility governing board."
- On p. 2, line 44, after "the commission" insert "or, for a consumer-owned utility, the local utility governing board."

With the incorporation of these amendments, we are prepared to withdraw our opposition to HB 2064.

Our recommended amendments do not preclude the possibility of siting a community microgrid within a COU territory. However, we do not require any new authorities to consider a proposal of this type.

Thank you for your recognition of this fundamental distinction between IOU and COU ratemaking authorities.

Respectfully,

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