

February 21, 2025

House Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
900 Court Street NE, Room 453
Salem, OR, 97301

Subject: City of Milwaukie support HB3179 the FAIR Energy Act

Dear Chair Sosa, Vice-Chairs Chaichi and Osborne, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **strong support of HB 3179**. The City of Milwaukie is committed to advancing climate resiliency and affordability for our residents. As the impacts of climate change intensify, Milwaukie residents and all Oregonians need the utility rate protections provided by HB 3179.

Affordability is one of Milwaukie City Council's new goals for FY 2025-27. It has been prioritized as our community continues to struggle under the weight of drastic increases to energy utility bills, specifically in the last five years. City Council's goal represents our commitment to providing utility relief for ratepayers. The FAIR Energy Act helps state regulators set energy billing rates at the lowest possible level and protects families from increases during winter. This bill aligns with Milwaukie's commitment by ensuring fair and stable energy costs, helping to safeguard the well-being of our residents during times of financial strain.

Milwaukie is utilizing all the state and federal assistance programs to increase efficiency and reduce bills for residents. However, the needs continue to outweigh these available resources. For example, over the next 6 months, the city is partnering with Community Energy Project to install 20 single-family heat pumps in homes without heat and limited insulation. While this initiative will provide tremendous relief, there are countless deserving families that are left without an accessible solution to lower their energy bills while also staying warm in their home. The FAIR Energy Act is essential to complement these assistance programs and ensure everyone has safe and affordable heating and cooling in their home.

We appreciate your consideration of our input and ask for your support of HB 3179.

Sincerely,

Katie Gavares

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Climate and Natural Resources Manager, City of Milwaukie