



March 3, 2025

Representative Pam Marsh, Chair
House Committee Housing and Homelessness
Oregon State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Amendment Request to HB 2138

Dear Chair Marsh, Vice Chair Andersen, Vice Chair Breese-Iverson and Members of the House Committee on Housing and Homelessness:

Oregon Municipal Electric Utilities Association (OMEU) is made up of eleven municipally owned and operated electric utilities that receive carbon-free hydropower from the Bonneville Power Administration.

OMEU would like to see an amendment to HB 2138. Specifically, on page 9, line 8 of the bill, the requirement of separate utilities for each dwelling unit has been eliminated. Then, on page 10, line 5 the city or county is given discretion to determine whether to require separate utilities for each dwelling unit. We oppose this change and are hoping that you will restore the original requirement of separate utilities for each dwelling unit to avoid some unintended consequences.

It is important that utilities remain in the driver's seat regarding our terms of service. It is standard industry practice to require separate meters for several reasons:

- A single meter providing service to multiple residents could result in a disconnect for nonpayment or tampering. As a utility we only deal with the customer that signed the contract and would be paying the bill. Without separate meters, people in different dwellings at a multi-use residential/middle housing building could be put at risk of disconnection if the responsible party failed to pay.
- Most utilities also have policies prohibiting the resale of electricity. If the building only has one meter, the owner could charge the residents whatever they wanted with no visibility or accountability.
- Load/usage information per dwelling would be impossible to get without single metering information. People do not use the same amount of electricity, so someone that is a high electric user may be subsidized by a low user. Separate meters are standard for electric service as a matter of fairness.
- Without metering information, it may make it more difficult to deliver energy efficiency services.

1201 COURT ST. NE, SUITE 102 • SALEM, OREGON 97301 • (971) 600-6976 • E-MAIL: jenniferjoly@omeu.org

Please maintain the current requirement of separate utilities for each dwelling. We do not understand the motivation behind the proposed change in HB 2138, but it would have unintended consequences. Without the amendment, we oppose HB 2138. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jennifer Joly

Jennifer Joly, Director

Oregon Municipal Electric Utilities Association