

February 10, 2026

House Committee on Climate, Energy & Environment
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: HB 4060 and -2 amendments - OPPOSE

Chair Lively, Vice Chairs Gamba and Levy, and Members of the Committee,

Climate Solutions is a regional nonprofit working to accelerate clean energy solutions to the climate crisis. On behalf of our thousands of members statewide, we write to express our opposition to HB 4060 *and especially the -2 amendments*.

We are concerned that this bill creates a broad and unnecessary exemption from Oregon's fluorescent lamp sales prohibition for large commercial buildings. Efficiency standards work because they are clear, predictable, and fairly applied. Weakening them through broad exemptions undermines legislative intent, climate progress, and public confidence.

The bill as written would apply to *all* large commercial facilities and big-box retailers meeting the square-footage threshold, and the proposed amendment would go even further to exempt virtually all commercial buildings. If the Legislature's goal is truly to address discrete, company- or sector-specific implementation concerns, then the exemption should be narrowly tailored to address those specific concerns. Instead, HB 4060 and the proposed amendment establishes a sweeping carve-out that benefits any large commercial property. **Furthermore, the need for this exemption remains unclear given the wide availability of drop in LED replacements for fluorescent bulbs, and the fact that annual energy cost savings for replacing fluorescents with LEDs in commercial buildings are greater than the additional cost of the LED bulbs.**¹ These drop-in replacements require no rewiring or other cumbersome changes to existing light fixtures - they simply replace the bulb and attach to the fixture in the same way as the fluorescent bulb. A study by the University of Michigan found that even if there are some ballast failures upon installation of drop-in LED replacements, it is still cost effective to replace burnt out fluorescents with LEDs.²

Oregon adopted the underlying statute in 2023 alongside a broad package to improve building efficiency and reduce unnecessary energy waste. The 2023 bill passed with bipartisan support and little to no opposition.

HB 2531 (2023) does not require that all buildings immediately switch out all their bulbs. It simply prohibits the sale of compact and linear fluorescents in this state. Businesses are still able to use backstock of fluorescents to replace burnt out bulbs. With the mechanism of HB 2531 focusing on the sale of lights,

¹ <https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2023R1/Downloads/CommitteeMeetingDocument/271733>

² [U-M study outlines cost, energy savings of switching from fluorescent lamps to LEDs | University of Michigan News](#)

it remains unclear after the hearing how the exemption proposed in this bill and forthcoming amendments will actually help most businesses comply if they are still able to replace one off bulbs with previously purchased fluorescents or drop in LED replacements. If larger scale lighting retrofits are planned by businesses, that is not required nor should it be impeded by HB 2531.

The legislature passed HB 2531 in 2023 because this body has long understood the importance of energy efficiency. Switching from fluorescents to LEDs is a common sense step that every commercial building owner can take to reduce their own energy use, lower their costs, and support our grid. LEDs are a common sense solutions because they are 18 - 44% more energy efficient than fluorescent bulbs³ and last 2 times longer.⁴ Fluorescent lighting also contains mercury which is highly toxic to humans⁵, and must be treated as hazardous waste.⁶

The energy waste and hazards of fluorescent bulbs mean that businesses can benefit from replacing these bulbs with LEDs, even before the end of the fluorescent bulbs useful life.

Beyond the benefits of LEDs and energy efficiency, HB 4060 sets a troubling precedent:

- 1) It signals that large, well-resourced entities can seek exemptions after the fact rather than comply with the law.
- 2) It raises the question of why the Legislature should establish standards at all if the goalposts can be moved whenever compliance becomes inconvenient.
- 3) It rewards delay rather than preparation and accountability.
- 4) It creates legislation that works against our goals of reducing peak energy demand at a time when the electric grid is encountering more stress from data centers and other increasing loads.

HB 4060 moves Oregon backward from the goals the Legislature explicitly set in 2023, as well as those outlined in the 2025 Oregon Energy Strategy and Governor Kotek's Executive Order 25-29. Recent reporting on Oregon's energy strategy underscores why efficiency measures, like transitioning away from fluorescent lighting, are cost-effective, common-sense solutions.⁷ As this committee understands well, the cheapest energy is the energy we don't use. Rolling back efficiency standards undermines both affordability and reliability at a time when Oregon must be reducing waste, not locking it in.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge the committee to reject HB 4060 and -2 amendments.

Thank you for your consideration.

Claire Prihoda
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Climate Solutions

³ <https://record.umich.edu/articles/study-examines-switching-from-fluorescent-lamps-to-leds/>

⁴ <https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2023R1/Downloads/CommitteeMeetingDocument/271733>

⁵ <https://www.clasp.ngo/research/all/mercury-in-fluorescent-lighting-unnecessary-health-risks-actionable-solutions/>

⁶ <https://www.oregon.gov/deq/FilterDocs/ManagingWasteLamps.pdf>

⁷ <https://www.opb.org/article/2026/02/03/oregon-energy-climate-green-power/>