

**Department of Energy
Energy Audit and Renewable Energy Development**

The Natural Resources subcommittee recommends approval for the Oregon Department of Energy to submit a grant application to the U.S. Department of Agriculture for \$100,000 from the 2015 Rural Energy for America Program's Energy Audit and Renewable Energy Development Assistance Grant Program.

This grant program provides funding to agricultural producers and rural small businesses for evaluating energy efficiency measures and assessing the possibility of incorporating renewable energy technologies into their operations. If awarded, The Department will use this grant to conduct renewable energy assessments in Central Oregon, the Klamath Basin, and other rural and/or drought-stricken regions throughout the state. The Department's application identifies \$20,000 of existing staff time that will be dedicated to the grant-funded project, thus satisfying the match requirement. The grant awards will be announced in September, 2015.

The Natural Resources Subcommittee recommends approval of the request.