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STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 8
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Date: January 31, 2019

HB 2242 Testimony

To: House Committee on Energy and Environment

The Public Utilities Commission was directed by the legislature in Senate Bill 978 to conduct an extensive public and transparent process to consider how the PUC's role might change given new directions in energy policy and a changing regulatory environment.

One of the major recommendations that was identified was the concern for rate impacts and affordability to low income, underserved and impacted customers.

HB 2242 was drafted to implement these recommendations and to give the PUC the statutory authority to authorize rate designs and other utility programs to underserved customers through a public process.

HB 2242 will create a Low-Income and Environmental Justice Advocate within the PUC to represent the interests of these underserved customers directly in utility regulatory proceedings.

It will also expand the group of organizations that participate in rule and rate-making proceedings to incorporate low and fixed-income communities.

I wanted to note that this bill only authorizes the PUC to allow rate designs and other approaches to serve low income customers and underserved customers —it does not mandate anything. It enables the PUC to conduct a public process to discuss methods to optimize services to those customers.

Any resulting decisions will follow all existing rules and regulations already in place to protect the utility system and all customers across Oregon.

Thank you for your consideration of HB2242.

Respectfully,

Paul Holvey
Oregon State Representative
District 8

