



Portland General Electric
121 SW Salmon Street · Portland, Ore. 97204

Representative Ken Helm, Chair
Representative E. Werner Reschke, Vice-Chair
Representative Sheri Schouten, Vice-Chair
House Energy and Environment Committee
Oregon Legislative Assembly
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Via Email to hee.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov

Dear Chairs and Vice-Chairs,

I write to express Portland General Electric's ("PGE") support for House Bill 2422, relating to public utilities. We are at a time of great change for public utilities. As our energy industry evolves, we must ensure that everyone has the opportunity to benefit from the transition to a clean energy future. Electricity is an essential service, something that plays a critical role in the vitality of our communities and the well-being of Oregonians. As we work to transform the energy system in a way that accelerates decarbonization and new technology while also preserving the affordability and reliability that our customers expect, continued transparency and robust regulatory systems to make certain that societal goals are accomplished for all citizens become even more important.

HB 2242 is a result of the process that the Oregon Public Utility Commission ("OPUC") and multiple stakeholders engaged in throughout 2018 pursuant to Senate Bill 978 (2017) ("SB 978"). That proceeding, which included seven public meetings and multiple opportunities for comment, resulted in a report to this committee in September 2018. Section 1 (6) of SB 978 provided that the OPUC could "include, as part of the commission's report, recommendations for legislation." Included in those recommendations, the OPUC stated that "The Legislature should consider ways to improve equitable and affordable access to energy services."

We agree. Parties who have historically experienced difficulties in accessing regulatory decision-making processes must have a voice in our clean energy future to ensure that it is a shared future. We strongly disagree with a small subset of SB 978 participants who advocated then, and continue to advocate here, for methods to dismantle the consumer protections and social benefits of utility regulation and stake Oregon's energy and economic future on "the market."

Instead, we very much appreciate the thoughtful approach that has been taken by HB 2242 and the -4 amendments. To further promote just and equitable outcomes, we need more inclusive processes to engage stakeholders and ensure meaningful participation in the energy decisions that impact their lives. Ensuring a broader set of voices at the OPUC table by making intervenor funding available to organizations that represent low income residential customers or residential customers who are members of environmental justice communities, in combination with the creation of the Advocate position, will greatly expand peoples' understanding of the issues facing all Oregonians. Through our own participation in the SB 978 process, we deepened our own understanding of the need for equity, and the historical and systemic inequities



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experienced by low income residents, people of color, and other marginalized groups. This work should continue.

We support expanding the OPUC's authority to consider differential energy burdens on low income customers and other factors that affect affordability as provided in Section 2 of the -4 amendments. We further support the comprehensive charge to the OPUC to investigate ways to address and mitigate these issues. We welcome the opportunity to work with regulators and stakeholders to develop additional tools for helping customers who struggle to pay their bills.

In summary, we reiterate that it is our belief that electricity is an essential public service. We should adopt a "yes, and..." approach to regulation that moves the state forward together, decarbonizing the region, keeping electricity affordable, maintaining reliability and creating equitable outcomes. HB 2242 and the -4 amendments are a positive step forward in creating those equitable outcomes, consistent with the SB 978 report findings.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "S. Radcliffe", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Sania Radcliffe
Director, Government Affairs and Environmental Policy
Portland General Electric