

February 3, 2021

Chair Pam Marsh  
Co-Vice Chair David Brock Smith  
Co-Vice Chair Ken Helm  
House Energy Environment Committee  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for HB 2062 – Appliance Energy Efficiency Standards

Dear Chair Marsh, Co-Vice Chair Brock Smith, Co-Vice Chair Helm, and members of the committee:

Oregon's electric utilities are pleased to support HB 2062 which codifies the Oregon Department of Energy's recent rulemaking for appliance energy efficiency standards. Continual improvements in energy efficiency are an important component to the state's overall decarbonization pathway.

Specifically, we wanted to express the importance of the proposed standard for grid-connected water heaters that use a communication port that is compliant with CTA-2045 or equivalent on all electric water heaters manufactured on or after January 1, 2022 and sold in Oregon. Grid-connected devices that customers can voluntarily enroll into utility demand response programs are critical tools that will help achieve Oregon's greenhouse gas reduction goals because they promote smarter energy use and support integrating variable renewable resources onto the electric system.

Demand response, enabled by grid-connected appliances, is essential to maximizing renewable resources and support keeping the electric system reliable. Grid-connected appliances enable the grid operator to use wind and solar resources when they are available and to shift electricity demand when they are not through customer voluntary participation in demand response programs. Specifically, grid-connected water heaters present a particularly promising load for balancing and integration purposes. Adopting this appliance standard for water heaters will provide:

- Customers an easy, consistent approach to connect their water heater with demand response programs, regardless of the manufacturer;
- Utilities a cost-effective approach to implementing and operating demand response programs; and
- The necessary volume to lower the cost of the communication hardware for the manufacturer.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

