



727 Center Street, NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301  
503-370-4413  
fax 503-371-4781  
[www.opuda.org](http://www.opuda.org)

March 22, 2021

## **OPUDA SUPPORTS COU EXCLUSION IN HB 2021 -1 AMENDMENT**

The Oregon People's Utility District Association (OPUDA) is a membership organization with a mission of benefitting our customer owners. OPUDA's members include all of Oregon's electric People's Utility Districts (known as PUDs), not-for-profit utilities providing at-cost electric service to nearly two-thirds of the Oregon coastline, parts of Columbia and Multnomah counties, Lane County, and as far east as Wasco County.

PUDs are governed by five-member Boards of Directors that are elected by voters in each PUD service area. Oregon's electric PUDs collectively serve over 200,000 people and deliver over 4.5 billion kilowatt hours of electricity to Oregonians annually. OPUDA member utilities provided over 400 family wage jobs in rural communities.

Oregon PUD's purchase nearly all energy from the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), under 20-year contracts. That electricity sold to consumer-owned utilities (COUS) is already clean and near zero carbon emissions from the Federal Columbia River Power System. As a result, Oregon COUs have been some of the cleanest utilities in the country since BPA was formed in 1937, setting a standard that few others can match. The Oregon Legislature has acknowledged that near zero carbon power and Oregon statutes distinguish COUs from Oregon Investor-Owned (for-profit) Utilities in most circumstances.

We appreciate the acknowledgment in the -1 amendment to HB 2021 that COUs have been delivering clean power to Oregon customers for nearly a century. In addition, our locally elected boards will continue our commitment to using clean, renewable power into the future. We kindly request that the Committee continue to recognize the clean energy COUs already provide to their customers via the exclusion of COUs from HB 2021.

*Central Lincoln PUD – Newport*

*Northern Wasco County PUD – The Dalles*

*Columbia River PUD – St. Helens*

*Clatskanie PUD – Clatskanie*

*Emerald PUD – Eugene*

*Tillamook PUD - Tillamook*