



February 22, 2021

Representative Pam Marsh, Chair  
House Committee on Housing

**RE: HB 3141 – SUPPORT**

Chair Marsh and Committee Members:

Oregon Environmental Council (OEC) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, membership-based organization that advances innovative, collaborative and equitable solutions to Oregon’s environmental challenges for today and future generations. Climate Solutions is a regional non-profit working to accelerate clean energy solutions to the climate crisis. **On behalf of our thousands of members statewide, we urge you to support HB 3141, a bill that will reauthorize the public purpose charge for successful energy efficiency and renewables programs.**

The Energy Trust of Oregon (ETO) is a program that has been in statute for over a decade, and is funded by a public purpose charge that supports everything from industrial efficiency for businesses to rooftop solar on homes and other energy efficiency programs. Since its establishment in 2002, **ETO programs have saved and generated enough clean energy to power the equivalent of half of all the homes in Oregon.** Oregon has been able to maintain its position as a [top-10 national leader in energy efficiency](#) in no small part thanks to ETO’s “comprehensive portfolio of electricity and natural gas efficiency programs.”

However, the public purpose charge that funds the ETO is set to sunset in 2025. Because many ETO projects have long time commitments, it is critical that the legislature authorize an extension of the public purpose charge now to ensure the continuation of important programmatic work. HB 3141 would extend the public purpose charge until 2035, and make important updates to maximize the program’s benefits. By removing constraints on energy efficiency from the direction of the public purpose charge, HB 3141 will help maximize emissions reductions, increase weatherization for low-income families, and improve resilience and storage for the benefit of Oregon utility customers.

The legislature must extend the public purpose charge this year to ensure these long-established, successful programs continue to provide clean, affordable energy to Oregon families.

Sincerely,

Nora Apter  
Climate Program Director  
Oregon Environmental Council

Meredith Connolly  
Oregon Director  
Climate Solutions

Meredith Connolly