

House Committee Members and decision makers, thank you for your attention to Oregon Energy Affordability. It's a critical time to reevaluate energy affordability to help improve the lives of people in Oregon, especially for those who are barely surviving right now. No one's health and wellbeing should be worsened and harmed by the stress and burden of their energy bills. Many adults, people with disabilities, and people with limited, fixed, or no income are struggling during the COVID19 pandemic, and were already burdened by energy costs before this public health crises. I appreciate your swift and caring response to change policies and systems that have been neglecting the needs of our community members with highest need. The Oregon Energy Affordability Act is a way for you and other leaders to help provide urgent relief by giving the PUC authority to develop a rate structure that will reduce the energy burden for the lowest income and underserved people in our communities. This is not only climate justice and social justice in action but also an effective way to respond as we continue to develop more proactive and upstream solutions to health and housing issues, and the extractive systems that perpetuate inequities. Thank you.