

February 22, 2021

To House Energy and Environment Committee
Re: HB 3141; letter in support.

Dear Rep. Marsh and members of the Committee:

I'm writing in support of HB 3141 to extend the sunset date and modernize funding for energy efficiency and renewable energy through Energy Trust of Oregon.

Importance of extending sunset this year. I'm writing as a member of First Unitarian Church in Portland. We used ETO funding to help put solar panels on the roof of our education building. The contribution to the project from ETO was essential; we could not have proceeded without it. From the first plans to completion, the project took several years. It was essential that we know throughout that time that ETO's funding continued to be available. I'm writing in support of the extension of the sunset in HB 3141 because projects sometimes can take a long time. It is imperative that you pass this measure this year to be sure that projects don't face uncertainty about their funding in future years.

Expansion of purpose for resilience. Second, I'm writing in support of the additional provisions in HB 3141 that would include resilience and storage measures. At the church, we wanted to include battery storage with our panels so that the church could serve as an emergency shelter in the event of a disaster, but because there wasn't any help with the substantial added cost, we could not. If this measure passes, we'll revisit the opportunity to add storage to our project.

Equity and energy efficiency support. Our church's principles affirm the worth and dignity of all individuals and the interconnectedness of all life. Thus, we also strongly support the equity provisions in HB 3141 including low-income set asides. Climate change is an important consideration in our church, and weatherization is a key element of reducing greenhouse gases.

Concern: assure funding for renewables and energy efficiency does not decrease. I listened to the Hearing today and was gratified by the strong coalition of organizations that worked on HB 3141. I have just one concern. The public purpose charge is reduced; please be sure that the utilities are not allowed to reduce funding for renewables and energy efficiency. Should the measure include safeguards to assure that funding is protected for renewable energy and energy efficiency projects?

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Very truly yours,

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Copy to Rep. Dexter, Senator Steiner Hayward

