

January 31, 2021

Dear Chair Marsh, Vice-Chair Brock Smith, Vice-Chair Helm and members of the Committee,

My name is Siobhan, I live in Eugene and I am passionate about Energy Justice.

I am in full support of HB 2475 and would like you to support it as well. I firmly believe that HB 2475 takes an equitable approach to providing energy for all people.

- HB 2475 will help Oregon families afford their energy bills through lower rates for the residential ratepayers with lower incomes who most need the relief.
- It also allows organizations who represent low-income and environmental justice communities to better participate in decisions about energy that affect their lives. It ensures that the people who know best how to address the challenges of their everyday lives to shape the solutions.

HB 2475 could end the monthly debate held in many households about whether to pay the electric bill or buy food. As a young girl, there were times when food won and the lights went out. It is very difficult to cook dinner without electricity.

Now a days, energy is so much more important because of the internet. Especially now during COVID when kids are learning online. The access to energy is inequitable, with those having money being able to afford it and those who do not unable to access it. This does a disservice to our whole community.

I am fighting for HB 2475 because I would like to end that debate about food or electricity. No one should have to choose between those essentials. I dream of a world where energy can be accessed by all. Will you help make that dream a reality?

Please review the article below for more information about the inequities in our energy systems:

- <https://naacp.org/latest/utility-disconnections-leave-thousands-around-nation-cold-left-da>

“Thank you Chair Marsh, Vice-Chair Brock Smith, Vice-Chair Helm and members of the Committee for supporting Energy Affordability, HB 2475.

Sincerely,
Siobhan Cancél