



Oregon State Legislature  
House Committee on Climate, Energy and Environment  
Salem, OR

**March 20, 2023**

Chair Marsh, Vice-Chair Bobby Levy, and Vice-Chair Emerson Levy,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony. Spark Northwest is a regional nonprofit that partners on clean energy projects with marginalized communities across the Pacific Northwest.

We applaud the Committee's decision to hear HB 3459, which will keep Oregonians safe and healthy through all conditions. We urge you to support the bill and proposed amendments for the following reasons:

- Access to reliable electricity is a basic human need and no one should be forced to choose between paying for food or utilities
- Heating and cooling are increasingly **critical to health and safety as extreme weather intensifies**
- BIPOC and low-income Oregonians experience the **greatest harms of climate change** and are the **most likely to experience energy utility shutoffs**
- Customers paid **under \$3 annually** on average to support the pandemic shutoff moratorium

Today we are excited to offer our support for HB 3459. As you work to pass the bill out of committee, we urge you to treat it as one component of an ecosystem of bills that will keep Oregonians safe and healthy through extreme weather, including but not limited to HB 2990, "Relating to Community Resilience," and SB 868, "Healthy Heating and Cooling for All."

Sincerely,

*John Seng*

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