

Submitter: Jen Hamaker

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure: HB3459

ONRI opposes HB 3459 for several reasons, one being that it takes away a persons responsibility to pay their utility bill or be disconnected at the expense of those who do pay their utility bills. Why would anyone pay their utility bill? They most likely wouldn't. The utility companies need to make money to operate. Someone will pay, and those someone's are those who do pay.

Secondly, Oregon Municipal Electric Utilities Association (OMEU) is made up of eleven municipally owned and operated electric utilities and they have not been made aware of concerns in regards to disconnecting utilities prior to this bill being written. OMEU should've been a part of the conversation before this bill was introduced. This is another bill pushing an agenda that shifts responsibility and the rest of us pay.

Disconnection is used as a last resort, appropriate, and judicious. There are other approaches to help people in need other than a bill that takes the personal responsibility to pay their bills and places it on others who do.

Sincerely,

Jen Hamaker

Oregon Natural Resource Industries