



March 28, 2023

Chair Pam Marsh
House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: HB 3459-4 Support

Chair Marsh, Vice-Chairs Levy and Levy, and Members of the House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment,

Climate Solutions is a regional non-profit working to accelerate clean energy solutions to the climate crisis. We support an equitable transition to clean energy, including protections for those most vulnerable to the climate crisis and high energy burdens. We write today in support of HB 3459 with the -4 amendment, which would continue critical funding for the Oregon Energy Assistance Program (OEAP).

Due in part to the COVID pandemic, Oregonians across the state are struggling to pay for basic services like housing and energy. It's well understood that across the country BIPOC and low-income communities face disproportionately high energy bills. In 2020 and 2021, Oregon stepped up to deliver much-needed energy assistance to help prevent shut-offs, but for many households, energy insecurity and the risk of shut-offs remains a top-of-mind concern.

HB 3459 with the -4 amendment would maintain the funding increase set by HB 2437 (2021), which would ensure that more assistance is available to low-income customers through the Oregon Energy Assistance Program. For an individual or family struggling to pay energy bills, having this assistance can be life-saving. For some, this assistance is not just necessary to keep the lights on, it's necessary to maintain safe temperatures, refrigerate food and medicine, and maintain internet service for students and workers across the state.

For these reasons and more, we urge you to support HB 3459 with the -4 amendment to continue this important source of aid for energy-burdened Oregonians.

Thank you,

Greer Ryan
Clean Buildings Policy Manager
Climate Solutions