February 13, 2024

To: Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Findley and members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment

From: Jennifer Hill-Hart, Policy Manager, Oregon Citizens' Utility Board (CUB)

Re: Support for SB 1525

The Oregon Citizens' Utility Board (CUB) is a statewide, membership-based 501(c)3 nonprofit consumer advocacy developed by citizens' initiative in 1984. CUB represents the interests of Oregon households by advocating for utility regulations and policies that protect your wallet. To date, we have saved Oregonians almost $10 billion. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 1525.

The Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) runs many programs that support Oregon's transition to clean energy. CUB supports ODOE's statutory adjustment provisions in SB 1525 with the -3 and -4 amendments as necessary to support these programs. CUB supports the Community Heat Pump Deployment Program in particular. With Oregon Rental Home Heat Pump Program funds prioritizing those most in need, this program helps us all support those Oregonians straddled with the highest energy burdens, another step toward creating a more equitable energy landscape.

CUB also supports SB 1525 with the -2 amendment. This amendment enables the use of large distributed generators in times of emergency. These resources will improve grid reliability with backup power in times of need, inevitably saving customers money by avoiding relying on market purchased power. The amendment also ensures that these resources will transition to renewable fuels and keep Oregon on track to meet our greenhouse gas emissions' reduction goals, while being transparent about that process. CUB is also grateful for Portland General Electric's willingness to thoughtfully engage with stakeholders on these requirements.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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