

February 3, 2025

House Committee On Energy and Environment
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Subject: Support for House Bill 3171

Chair Lively and Members of the Committee:

The Multnomah County Office of Sustainability asks for your support for making County Energy Resilience Plans feasible for more counties. House Bill 3171 would amend the requirements for County Energy Resilience Plans in ORS 215.141, allowing counties greater flexibility and discretion in their development, while retaining requirements around engagement with environmental justice communities and consideration of social vulnerability. Your support of House Bill 3171 would make County Energy Resilience Plans more attainable to counties with large populations, like Multnomah County.

Our community needs energy to function, and the impacts of lack of energy resilience are heightened for households with specific vulnerabilities and for those least resourced. We see tremendous promise in the Oregon Department of Energy's County Energy Resilience Grant Program, which seeks to support counties with energy resilience planning. However, the level of funding currently available is not sufficient to allow a county of our size and population to comply with the requirements in ORS 215.141. The additional flexibility in House Bill 3171 would increase the likelihood that more populous counties like Multnomah can apply for, and deliver, on a first iteration of a County Energy Resilience Plan.

We look forward to continuing to engage in the important conversations taking place about how to enhance energy resilience for Oregonians. We appreciate your consideration of these comments and ask for your support of House Bill 3171.

Sincerely,

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