



March 3, 2025

Representative John Lively, Chair
House Committee Climate, Energy & Environment
Oregon State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Oregon Municipal Electric Utilities Association Opposition to HB 3081

Dear Chair Lively, Vice Chair Gamba, Vice Chair Levy and Members of the House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment:

Oregon Municipal Electric Utilities Association (OMEU) is made up of eleven municipally owned and operated electric utilities. Our rates are not-for-profit and set to cover the costs of service, not to earn a rate of return for investors.

Our utilities are committed to working with customers to help them access and stack other non-utility incentives with our Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and utility ones. We have done this pretty successfully with the state heat pump incentive and have seen a good uptake across the state, including in consumer-owned utility (COU) territories. Of course, if ODOE wants to provide more support to COUs about incentives at the state and federal level, we are happy to pass on that information to our customers.

ODOE has just released a beta version of their “single resource” website for energy efficiency programs in Oregon, which was required in HB 3630 in the 2023 Session. While the website is still in a test phase, our utilities are noticing a few shortcomings. For example, the website does not ask for the customer to input their home’s primary heat source or the fuel source for their water heater and clothes dryer. Without this information, the website is listing programs that are not applicable to the user. Energy Trust of Oregon (ETO) incentives apply only to electric customers served by investor-owned utilities, and customers with gas heat or appliances. Likewise, COUs offer incentives approved by BPA that ETO may not offer. In our view, these are the kinds of details that such a website should accurately determine for the customer. Otherwise, this website could create customer confusion.

We continue to be concerned about spending at ODOE, particularly from the Energy Supplier Assessment (ESA), which must be passed on to our ratepayers. In a new era of likely declining federal incentives for energy efficiency, we question the creation of a call center and clearinghouse.

We’d like to work on perfecting the website before investing more resources in enhancements requiring ODOE staffing or the hiring of contractors. Making sure the website is accurate is important particularly if contractors are relying on it to communicate our utility incentive programs. If the website is wrong or out of date, utilities can face criticisms if the customer has already signed a contract or had the work done.

Thank you for considering our perspective.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jennifer Joly

Jennifer Joly, Director
Oregon Municipal Electric Utilities Association

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