Oregon
Rural
Electric
Cooperative
Association

March 4, 2025

Chair Lively
Vice Chairs Gamba and B. Levy
House Committee on Climate, Energy and Environment
900 Court Street NW
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: HB 3081 – ODOE One Stop Shop for Energy Incentives

Chair Lively, Vice-Chairs Gamba and Levy, and members of the committee,

My name is Tucker Billman, and I am the Director of Government Relations for the Oregon Rural Electric Cooperative Association (ORECA). ORECA represents the state's 18 not-for-profit electric cooperatives that serve the geographic majority of the state and 500,000 Oregonians. We are consumer-owned utilities whose governing boards are democratically elected by our customers, who we refer to as members. I am testifying in opposition to House Bill 3081.

Section 2(2)(a) requires the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) to develop a universal application that would be used by Oregonians to apply for all energy rebate programs active in Oregon. Oregon's electric cooperatives excel at facilitating numerous energy rebate programs – including Bonneville Power Administration-funded rebates and utility-specific rebates. Each incentive process is unique, and electric cooperatives are dedicated to being their members' trusted energy advisors on rebate programs. HB 3081 needs to be amended to remove Section 2(2)(a) to protect this role of electric cooperatives in assisting their members with energy incentives.

Section 2(3) requires electric cooperatives to coordinate with ODOE in developing a statewide clearinghouse of energy incentives, even as electric co-ops invest heavily in developing their own rebate websites and marketing strategies to achieve similar purposes, making this a duplicative effort. HB 3081 should be amended to remove Section 2(3).

We look forward to working with the sponsors to improve Oregonians' access to energy incentives and rebates. Should you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at tbillman@oreca.org.

Tucker Billman
Director of Government Relations
Oregon Rural Electric Cooperative Association