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OPUDA OPPOSES HB 3081

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OPUDA is a membership organization with a mission of benefitting our customer owners. OPUDA's members include all of Oregon's electric People's Utility Districts (known as PUDs), not-for-profit utilities serving over 200,000 people, providing over 400 family wage jobs in rural communities, and delivering over 4.5 billion kilowatt hours of electricity to Oregonians annually.

We are writing in opposition to HB 3081. HB 3081, which requires the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) to create a "statewide clearinghouse" for energy efficiency programs, ignores the effective channels that are currently used to deploy energy efficiency in Oregon today. This bill adds a new administrative overlay that will cause customer confusion, add costs, and is not needed. Consumer-owned utilities (COUs) have a long and successful history of energy efficiency and conservation achievements through direct communication between the utility and their customer.

Additionally, the cost of ODOE's operations is already skyrocketing. ODOE's 2025-2027 budget assumes an 18% increase in the Energy Supplier Assessment (ESA) just to meet Current Service Level (CSL) agency costs. This is not a time to be adding new programs at ODOE without considering added costs that are passed on from utilities to electric customers.

This bill is not needed. Utilities have successful and robust energy efficiency (EE) offerings that customers have no problem accessing. Oregon PUDs, like most COUs, get most of our power supply from the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA). BPA establishes a public power conservation target that must be met through the implementation efforts of the region's COUs. Our customers fund these conservation programs as part of our BPA power rates. Each COU offers incentives tailored to local needs and designed to achieve the greatest energy savings. Many PUDs self-fund their own EE programs above what BPA reimburses for or the programs that ODOE offers.

Investor-owned Utilities (IOUs), via the Energy Trust of Oregon, have a different energy efficiency incentive structure than COUs, which use Bonneville's manual and self-funded programs. It doesn't make sense to try to shoehorn two very different approaches to energy efficiency into a single intake form through a state agency that has nothing to do with either.

Please oppose HB 3081.

Central Lincoln PUD – Newport

Northern Wasco County PUD – The Dalles

Columbia River PUD – St. Helens

Clatskanie PUD – Clatskanie

Emerald PUD – Eugene

Tillamook PUD – Tillamook