



March 4, 2025

House Committee on Climate, Energy and Environment
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem Oregon 97301

Re: Support for HB 3081

Dear Chair Lively, Vice-Chairs Gamba and Levy, and Members of the Committee,

Climate Solutions is a regional non-profit working to accelerate clean energy solutions to the climate crisis.

We support HB 3081 as one of the important tools that the legislature can use this year to protect utility customers and support energy affordability.

Many of us are experiencing the challenge of energy affordability. Investor Owned Utilities (IOUs) which provide energy to most Oregonians have raised rates by 50% over the last couple of years. The legislature is rising to meet this challenge this year with a suite of energy affordability solutions. Oregonians need the legislature to reach for every tool in the toolbox to address rising costs. HB 3081 is just one of those tools, and is a compliment to the other efforts being undertaken by the legislature this year, including Transparency in Rates (SB 88), the FAIR Act (HB 3179), and the POWER Act (HB 3546).

In addition to struggling under the weight of rising costs, Oregonians are also struggling to adjust to the harsh extremes in weather and disasters brought on by fossil fuel driven climate change. With the heat related [deaths of at least 17 Oregonians](#) in 2024 and countless sickened due to extreme heat and the [largest wildfire burns in state history](#), we must do more to protect people, and prepare our homes and buildings from harms brought on by climate change.

The legislature is pursuing several solutions to get rising rates under control, but there are fewer tools that can both lower bills and help Oregonians adapt and thrive in our changing climate. **Energy efficiency is the best tool we have for accomplishing these goals.** By improving homes through weatherization and efficiency upgrades, we can make Oregonians safer, more comfortable, more secure, and reduce their costs.

Oregon has long been a leader in energy efficiency, to the extent that we have hundreds of different incentives available from the state, local governments, public utilities, investor owned

utilities, and the Energy Trust of Oregon. In 2023, the legislature passed HB 3630, which established the existing One Stop Shop, a website that has worked to bring these hundreds of incentives together into one resource. This “One Stop Shop 1.0” has both highlighted the incredible resources available to Oregonians, and the challenging complexity we all face in accessing them. This complexity is exacerbated for those with barriers such as tech-literacy, limited English proficiency, and other challenges that make a static website difficult to use.

Our existing energy efficiency programs are critical lifelines for Oregonians and many providers of these incentives provide excellent customer service to their clients. However, many Oregonians are struggling to understand, find, and access the assistance they need.

HB 3081 will leverage the existing resources of the One Stop Shop 1.0, and our existing landscape of incentives and providers to help Oregonians accomplish energy efficiency projects. The bill authorizes ODOE to create regional navigators, embedded in our communities, to hold people’s hands throughout the process. To understand their options, navigate the incentive system, and apply for incentives. The bill will further improve the accessibility of Oregon’s incentive system by leveraging opportunities to decrease complexity where possible.

HB 3081 builds on a strong history and foundation of energy efficiency in Oregon, while adding tools to help Oregonians meet the challenges of today. I urge your support for HB 3081, and our state energy efficiency programs as a means of lowering utility bills and increasing resilience for all.

Sincerely,
Claire Prihoda
Buildings Policy Manager
Climate Solutions