



# Oregon Citizens' Utility Board

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March 6th, 2025

To: Chair Lively, Vice-Chairs Levy and Gamba, and members of the House Committee on Climate, Energy and Environment

From: Sarah Wochele, Equity Analyst & Advocate, Oregon Citizens' Utility Board (CUB)

Re: Support for HB 3081 - One Stop Shop 2.0

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CUB is a membership-based 501(c)3 nonprofit consumer advocacy organization that represents the interests of utility consumers, including energy and telecommunications customers, before legislative, administrative and judicial bodies. **We submit this testimony to ask for your support for HB 3081, One Stop Shop 2.0.**

Meaningfully addressing energy affordability requires holistic, multi-pronged action, especially for those Oregonians with the lowest incomes. At the very least it requires addressing future bills, past due bills, *and* underlying energy inefficiencies in one's home. **Bill discount programs and assistance in paying off past due bills do not also address foundational needs regarding home energy inefficiencies, which contribute to higher energy bills.**

**Poor insulation, air leaks, unsealed and unused vents and chimneys, and outdated heating systems are also barriers to energy affordability, as they increase energy use and energy bills,** on top of making it more difficult for low-income households to live comfortably and affordably in their own homes. This can be especially concerning for renters, who have little control over the infrastructure of their dwelling, and low-income homeowners who do not have the wealth to make large repairs and upgrades. When people can be supported to live comfortably in their homes through energy audits, whole home repairs, and appliance upgrades, not only do they feel the difference in their energy bills, but our shared grid is better off too.

**One Stop Shop 2.0 seeks to make energy efficiency offers and programs more accessible by streamlining a process that otherwise can be unapproachable and time consuming, ensures real people can support Oregonians in the process, and establishes intentional, targeted outreach and education for people who will benefit the most from energy efficiency.** Helping low income Oregonians to obtain energy savings by addressing some root cause issues of energy unaffordability, is a crucial prong in meaningfully addressing energy affordability. One Stop Shop 2.0 seeks to ensure that households can more easily access and achieve not only energy savings, but healthier and more comfortable homes.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sarah Wochele, Equity Analyst & Advocate