



25 March 2025

House Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Oregon Legislature

Chair Sosa, Vice Chairs Chaichi and Osborne, and Members of the Committee:

RE: House Bill 3792

My name is Jimmy Jones, and I am the Executive Director of the **Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency** in Salem. We serve low-income residents of Marion, Polk, and nine other counties across Oregon. Annually, we provide more than \$80 million in services and direct client assistance for housing, homelessness, energy and weatherization, and early learning programs to more than 60,000 Oregonians in poverty. I also serve as the Vice President for Legislative Affairs at the Community Action Partnership of Oregon, sit on the Housing Committee of the Racial Justice Council, and previously was a member of the House Bill 2100 Task Force on Homelessness and Racial Disparities, and recently Chaired the Legislature's Joint Task Force on Hospital Discharge.

Our agency witnesses firsthand the impact that rising utility costs are having on communities and the rapidly growing need for energy assistance programs. House Bill 3792 strengthens the framework for delivering widespread assistance by increasing annual funding to \$40 Million while prioritizing crisis prevention. This is a vital step towards ensuring that low-income households are not left behind as costs continue to climb.

Energy insecurity can have far-reaching impacts on an individual's health, housing stability, and overall wellbeing. This Bill not only creates a practical and forward-looking approach to reducing disconnections and keeping vulnerable Oregonians in their homes, it also equips the Public Utility Commission with the tools to respond to changing economic conditions using data-driven strategies.

For all of these reasons, we urge your strong support of this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony and for your service to Oregon communities.

Respectfully,

Jimmy Jones
Executive Director