



March 27, 2025

To: House Committee On Commerce and Consumer Protection

Re: Support for HB 3792

Chair Sosa, Vice-Chair Osborne, Vice-Chair Chaichi, and members of the committee:

We appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony in **support of HB 3792**. Coalition of Communities of Color (CCC) is an alliance of culturally specific community-based organizations. Our mission includes addressing the socioeconomic disparities experienced by individuals, families, and communities of color; and to engage in collective action for social change to obtain self-determination, wellness, justice, and prosperity.

Over the past 4 years, CCC has been organizing alongside energy justice partners for the expansion of programs that help alleviate energy burden, such as bill discount and debt forgiveness programs for low-income families. We've heard directly from community members about the barriers they face when accessing limited energy assistance programs, and the difficult decisions they have to make when paying their bills.

Oregon Energy Assistance Program (OEAP) is a critical source of assistance for Oregon's most energy burdened households. Increasing the funding for this important program ensures that more families can keep the lights on and stay comfortable in their homes. Assistance programs such as OEAP are essential to providing households with a safety net that allows them to avoid utility disconnections and evictions, and pay for other essentials such as food and medicine.

HB 3792 helps close the gap between funding availability and need. As utility rates continue to rise, it is crucial that we have a variety of robust, flexible programs that can be braided together to help meet the growing need for assistance. Further, Portland General Electric and Pacific Power do not currently have programs that forgive past-due balances, so it is especially important that these customers have expanded access to OEAP funds.

We strongly urge you to support HB 3792 and provide resources to the Oregonians most vulnerable to utility disconnections.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nikita Daryanani".

Nikita Daryanani
Climate and Energy Policy Manager
Coalition of Communities of Color