



**IMMIGRANT & REFUGEE
COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION**
BUILDING NEW BEGINNINGS

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MAIN OFFICE

AFRICA HOUSE

EASTERN OREGON

**GREATER MIDDLE EAST
CENTER**

**PACIFIC ISLANDER &
ASIAN FAMILY CENTER**

**SLAVIC AND EASTERN
EUROPEAN CENTER**

Re: HB 3792

March 27, 2025

Dear Chair Sosa, Vice Chairs Chaichi and Osborne, and members of the committee,

As a partner and funded organization in anti-poverty and stabilization community work, the Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization (“IRCO”) continues to see rising need from communities of all backgrounds seeking energy assistance through such programs like Oregon Energy Assistance Program.

Every day, our offices field inquiries from community in need of support and assistance – providing the critical, wraparound, "No Wrong Door" services to those in need as utility rates and housing costs continue to rise. Moreover, IRCO's wraparound services are culturally specific, reaching communities of refugee, immigrant, and other often marginalized communities with little to no support elsewhere.

In 2024, 9607 individuals were served in a combined total across Region 3 programming. These individuals come from a diverse background of communities – including mainstream communities at nearly 40% served along with individuals who identify as being from a BIPOC community.

These energy assistance services are critical lifelines to those who are in desperate need to maintain stability in housing as costs rise putting communities with limited resources into further strain.

We encourage the committee to take these considerations into account in discussing HB 3792's expansion of energy assistance in Oregon.

Respectfully,

Sokho Eath
IRCO Government Relations Director,
Pacific Islander and Asian Family
Center Director