



March 27th, 2025

House Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Testimony in Support of House Bill 3792

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

I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 3792, which aims to increase the amount of money collected by an electric company or Oregon Community Power for low-income energy assistance. Our agency has witnessed firsthand both the challenges faced by low-income residents and the opportunities this bill presents to alleviate their burdens. Its passage will have a significant and lasting impact on individuals and families struggling to keep up with their utility bills.

ACCESS, the Community Action Agency serving Jackson County, is dedicated to supporting low-income residents in our county through essential services, including food assistance, energy assistance, rental support, weatherization programs, homeownership services, and medical equipment. Our mission is: *"Through partnership and service, ACCESS provides food, warmth, and shelter to promote stability for vulnerable populations."*

Housing stability is a core focus of our work, and energy assistance plays a crucial role in ensuring that low-income households can maintain secure and stable living conditions. Increased funding will enable agencies like ours to assist more households, allowing them to allocate resources to other essential needs, such as medication, food, and healthcare, without the added stress of an impending utility bill.

House Bill 3792 is essential in the face of rising costs and ongoing uncertainty surrounding federal funding. Passing this bill will provide much-needed stability, ensuring that low-income Oregonians can keep their utilities on and avoid the devastating consequences of disconnection.

Energy insecurity has wide-reaching effects on an individual's health, housing stability, and overall well-being. This bill offers a practical, forward-thinking solution to reducing utility shutoffs and keeping vulnerable Oregonians in their homes. Additionally, it empowers the Public Utility Commission with data-driven tools to adapt to changing economic conditions effectively.



In summary, we strongly urge your support for HB 3792 to safeguard the housing stability of low-income households struggling with energy costs. Thank you for your time, consideration, and dedication to serving Oregon communities.

Sincerely,

Joe Vollmar

Joe Vollmar
Chief Operations & Housing Officer
ACCESS