During the pandemic, Oregonians struggle to make ends meet and spend more time at home. Energy burden, the share of someone's income that goes toward energy bills, is increasing as people use more energy and sources of income dry up. People are falling behind on their bills, making tough budget decisions, and need relief. At the same time, utilities need tools to help manage mounting past-due bills. The legislature must act to allow for flexible rate structures that relieve energy burden and protect all ratepayers long-term from widespread cost increases.

House Bill 2475, the Oregon Energy Affordability Act, will create:

- **Rate Structures/Programs to Reduce Energy Burden**
  - The state Public Utility Commission will be given authority to allow utilities to provide rate designs, such as discounts, that help reduce energy burden for low-income or other under-served customers.

- **Help for the People Who Know Best to Shape Solutions**
  - Organizations who represent the people most impacted by energy burden will be able to access funding to participate in regulatory processes in the same manner as other broad customer groups like the Citizens’ Utility Board.

Contact: Oriana Magnera: orianamagnera@verdenw.org, 720-530-8401