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May 24, 2019

The Honorable Ken Helm, Chair
House Committee on Energy and Environment
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Opposition to HB 2852—Community Choice Aggregation

Dear Chair Helm and Members of the House Committee on Energy and Environment,

The Roseburg Area Chamber of Commerce encourages you to oppose HB 2852. The chamber has considerable concerns about the community choice aggregation policy outlined in HB 2852.

The Roseburg Area Chamber of Commerce represents the businesses of rural Douglas County and, specifically, a membership of 400 with nearly 17,000 employees. The Roseburg Chamber is a proactive, business advocacy organization working to promote, protect and enhance the success of local business.

Stable electricity rates have been critical to Douglas County businesses' ability to make well-informed decisions related to expansion and sustainability over the years. Proponents of HB 2852—community choice aggregation (CCA) tout lower rates and more renewable energy projects. However, one of the chamber's—and our members—greatest concerns is that CCAs have a mixed track record of actually delivering either of these in the long-term.

CCAs have been established in about half of the states that have deregulated power utilities. And, notably, nearly all are high cost. Oregon is not one of those states. Our state-regulated utilities already provide Oregon businesses and citizens with affordable, reliable and clean energy to power homes, businesses and communities. Oregon enjoys both some of the lowest power costs in the nation and an aggressive renewable energy strategy.

Our investor-owned utilities are heavily engaged in our communities and partner with local governments, non-profits and businesses on innovative energy solutions. For example, locally, Pacific Power's Blue Sky program has funded local renewable energy projects in Roseburg. These kind of investments come in response to the choice community members made to invest funds and serve to reduce emissions faster.

Without a problem to solve here, legislation to either deregulate or allow CCAs could very well destabilize our current robust, cost-efficient system. The Roseburg Area Chamber of Commerce sees no good reason to jeopardize the current affordable, reliable and clean energy choices our businesses and consumers receive from state-regulated power utilities for a CCA option it deems as an unnecessary, unfair and risky deregulation. We respectfully ask members of the committee to join us in our opposition of HB 2852. Thank you.

Best regards,

ROSEBURG AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Debra L. Fromdahl, IOM
President & CEO

cc: Members of Douglas County State Delegation



To advocate for and be the voice of the business community in the greater Roseburg area.

To strengthen, enhance and protect our members through political advocacy, economical development, community promotion and member programs and services.