

Annual Report of the Oregon Citizens' Utility Board

December 2017

It has been said that in life, “change is the only constant” and that certainly is true at CUB. On Jan 1, 2017 Citizens' Utility Board of Oregon (CUB) and the CUB Policy Center merged into a single 501(c)3 organization with updated branding and a new website. This year we also reconfigured and reengaged staff, and our board has been ardently recruiting new members with an eye to building diversity.

We have saved utility consumers millions through our energy work at the Public Utility Commission (PUC) and our water/wastewater work at the City of Portland. We have protected Oregonians' values at the PUC and the legislature. We continue to advocate, testify, and organize on behalf of open internet, digital inclusion, and net neutrality. This brief report highlights a few of our successes; however if you would like to see a full list of this year's accomplishments, please check out the CUB website at: oregoncub.org/about-us/accomplishments.

PGE Disallowed From Gas Plant Investments

We asked the PUC to disallow PGE's plan to invest in gas plants – which are long-term and carbon emitting - to replace MW lost when Boardman closes. We also suggested successfully that PGE invest in short-term hydro contracts instead. The PUC disallowed PGE from being able to build more gas-fired plants. In addition, CUB encouraged PGE to look for ways to diversify its renewable investments to include utility-scale solar, and wind in other places besides the Gorge. Check it out: bit.ly/2017-PGE-Resource.

SB 978 Orders Investigation Into Utility Regulatory Structure Modernization

CUB's most significant win in the legislature was passage of SB 978 which requires the Public Utility Commission (PUC) to investigate how industry trends, new technologies, and other policy drivers affect the existing utility regulatory system and incentive structure. A report back to the PUC by the end of 2018 is also required. We believe this is important because the utilities and other energy providers must begin to take into account the opportunities made available by 21st Century technology, and our regulations need to incentivize things differently. For more information, see CUB's Fall 2017 newsletter, page 3, “2017 Legislative Wrap-up and Next Steps” (online at bit.ly/Fall17-CUB-BearFacts.)



OR Senator Lee Beyer accepts the 2nd Annual Consumer Champion Award from Bob Jenks at the 2017 CUB Policy Conference

7th Annual Energy Policy Conference: The Excellence Continues

This year our Policy Conference, *Utility Regulation 2.0: Empowering What's Possible* wrestled with the role of regulation in light of quickly evolving technology, and changing customer expectations. We welcomed CEOs from Oregon Utilities as well as many thought leaders impacting national, regional, and state energy policy. To check out our speakers and sponsors, go to: oregoncub.org/cubcon17.

This year we welcomed three new people to the CUB Board of Governors. You can find their bios as well those of all our board members at: oregoncub.org/about-us/board.



Maggie Tallmadge, representing District 1, is an Environmental Justice Manager at Coalition of Communities of Color, and hails from Portland.



Rory Isbell, a Land Use Attorney residing in Bend, represents CUB members in District 2.



Ankur Doshi, Attorney with RB Pamplin Corporation, lives in Happy Valley and represents District 3.

Spinning Money From Methane in Portland

In April, Portland City Council approved a Bureau of Environmental Services plan to turn unused methane from the Columbia Boulevard waste treatment facility into renewable natural gas. This decision was made, in part, because CUB offered astute analysis showing the high economic return to the City and the greenhouse gas emission reductions provided by capturing methane from the waste. Learn more at bit.ly/2017-Money-Methane.



CUB Staff at the 2017 CUB Policy Conference, Utility Regulation 2.0: Empowering What's Possible

Avista Rate Increase Reduced

CUB successfully argued against Avista's rate increase request, resulting in customer savings of about \$5.3 million. Read more at bit.ly/2017-Avista.

NW Natural HoldCo Settlement

In an effort to find a best case scenario for both the utility and customers, CUB agreed with NW Natural's request to the PUC to create a holding company. CUB settled with the company after they agreed to 50 unique conditions that reduce the risks a holding company or acquisition can place on residential consumers. For more see our Fall 2017 newsletter, page 4, "NW Natural to Acquire Something" (online at bit.ly/Fall17-CUB-BearFacts.)



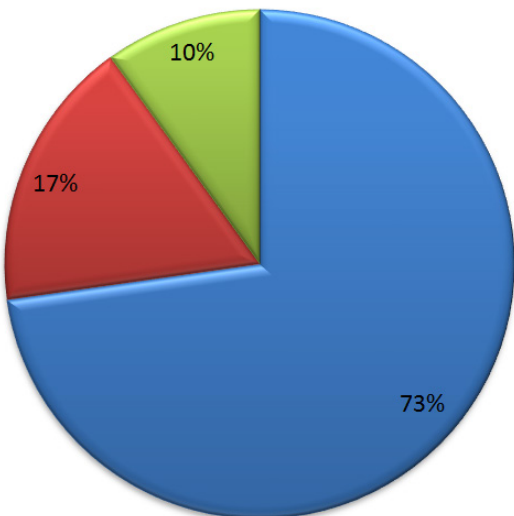
Consumer Advocate Sam Pastrick (middle) lends support to a Portland City Council & Multnomah County joint resolution highlighting the importance of net neutrality at a press conference with Senator Ron Wyden (left) and Portland City Councilor Dan Saltzman (right).

Advocating for the Open Internet

In the summer of 2017, CUB submitted substantial testimony urging the FCC not to roll back the 2015 Open Internet Order. This is important to Oregonians because this order grants the FCC legal authority to impose a broad suite of consumer safeguards by labeling the Internet a telecommunications service as opposed to an information service. We ultimately recruited 309 of our members to endorse our comments. To understand why we did not want the 2015 Open Internet Order rolled back, go to bit.ly/2017-telecom-policy. To read our testimony, visit bit.ly/CUB-Internet-Freedom.

2016 Audited Financial Statements

■ Programs ■ Fundraising ■ Administration



We are so grateful to you, our members and donors. Whether your gift is small or large – we simply could not do this work without your support. Go to oregoncub.org/about-us/donors to see all our 2016 Anniversary Club and Ursa Major donors.