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610 SW BROADWAY, SUITE 400  
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QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER  
OF THE OREGON  
CITIZENS' UTILITY BOARD



# THE BEAR FACTS

WINTER  
2025

## DEAR CUB MEMBERS

At the end of every year, I think to myself, "There is no way we could accomplish more than CUB did this year." And every year, I'm shocked to find how much further we can go. In 2025, CUB accomplished some truly incredible changes in policy, organized with more communities than ever, and changed the hearts and minds of many leaders.

I want to thank you for coming along for this wild ride -- we couldn't have done it without you. You came with us to Salem during the legislative session. You sent your comments to regulators on issues that impact you and your neighbors. And you helped us grow our staff with your generous donations.

For many Oregonians, this has not been a year for good news. But I'm proud to say that CUB has some very good news for the future of energy affordability, safety nets for helping people pay utility bills, wins against big tech companies, and more.

This year, we took the lead on more legislation than ever before and won on every one. We slashed gas utilities' requests for higher customer bills. We won in court on Pacific Power's need to reduce emissions. CUB won on almost everything we did in 2025.

I know there will continue to be significant challenges in the coming year, especially given the cuts and uncertainty from the federal government. But this year, I have never been more proud of our team, our supporters, or our community. Thank you for supporting our work, and we look forward to another year of success in 2026.



*Bob Jenks*

Bob Jenks  
Executive Director, Oregon CUB

## 2025 IN REVIEW CUB ANNUAL REPORT

2025 has been a year for the books! After years of back-to-back increases for gas and electric bills, CUB made big strides to rein in out-of-control energy costs. We passed historic legislation, organized more Oregonians than ever, and even took our work to the courts!

**CUB HAS SAVED OREGONIANS NEARLY  
\$10.5 BILLION SINCE OUR FOUNDING IN 1984.**

**3,500**  
Testimony  
from CUB  
Supporters

**5**  
Bills Passed  
in the Oregon  
Legislature

**1,500**  
Total CUB  
Members

**\$250M**  
Total Saved  
for Customers  
in 2025

THE BEAR  
FACTS

Read more inside to see what CUB did for  
Oregon utility customers in 2025!



MAKING UTILITIES  
AFFORDABLE, ACCESSIBLE,  
RELIABLE, & CLEAN FOR  
THE PEOPLE IN OREGON

## CUB WINS AT THE STATE LEGISLATURE

Oregon's 2025 legislative session was a major success for CUB, and customers won big this year. Our staff stepped up to a busy legislative session by taking the lead on several major energy affordability bills, a first in our 41-year history. **And we're proud to announce that all of our priority bills and many others that we supported passed!**

### POWER ACT (HB 3546)

**BIG WIN:** Data centers will now pay their fair share for energy

The **POWER Act (HB 3546)** holds large energy users accountable for paying for their own energy needs. By creating a new customer category for data centers, regulators can protect our energy bills. It also makes for-profit utilities identify costs that large energy users are adding—and make them pay their share.

### EXPANDING OREGON ENERGY ASSISTANCE (HB 3792)

**BIG WIN:** \$40 million for Oregon energy assistance (double!)

**HB 3792** doubles the funding for PGE and Pacific Power customers of the Oregon Energy Assistance Program (OEAP). PGE and Pacific Power households will pay less than \$1.50 each month to OEAP. These emergency funds help low-income families avoid shut-offs when they are behind on their energy bills.

### AFFORDABLE BROADBAND (HB 3148)

**BIG WIN:** Assistance continues for affordable internet

**HB 3148** expands the Oregon Telephone Assistance Program (Oregon Lifeline). Existing assistance will increase to provide up to \$24.95 per month when combined with remaining federal programs. A one-time benefit of \$100 will also be added for purchasing internet devices, like computers or tablets.

## COMMUNITY MEMBERS SPOKE OUT IN SALEM

PGE RAISED PRICES IN 2024 BY OVER 18% AND THEN AGAIN IN JANUARY OF 2025, 5.5%—DISGUSTING. I SUPPORT ANYTHING THAT WILL REIN IN THE UTILITY COMPANIES FROM WHAT I VIEW IS PRICE GAUGING. WATER, FOOD, AND ELECTRICITY ARE FUNDAMENTAL NECESSITIES OF LIVING, WHICH AFFECTS THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF ALL MEN, WOMEN, AND CHILDREN. BUT UN-AFFORDABILITY IS CRUSHING PEOPLE. HOPEFULLY, THIS IS A FIRST STEP IN CHANGING THAT TRAJECTORY.

- CARLA, PGE CUSTOMER

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 3179



## CUB WINS AGAINST UTILITY BILL INCREASES

This year, CUB successfully fought against increases to billing rates for gas customers. We helped slash utility proposals for both NW Natural and Avista customers, even winning a small decrease. With the new FAIR Energy Act, these utilities will not be able to ask for more until 2027.

### NW NATURAL GAS: NEARLY 67% CUT

This year, NW Natural asked regulators to approve a 7% billing rate increase starting November 21. **CUB helped reach an agreement with NW Natural to cut the proposed gas bill increase by two thirds.** The gas utility initially requested \$59.4 million. Regulators approved two rate increases that together will raise home gas bills by 5.5% on average, about \$4.28 per month.



**BIG WIN:** Of all of these cuts, profits were the largest reduction in the rate increase. Originally, NW Natural asked to increase its allowable profit margin from 9.4% to 10.4%. CUB and other advocates negotiated an increase to just 9.5%, in line with other Oregon gas utilities. **Just cutting this one profit request saved customers nearly \$15 million a year.**

### AVISTA GAS: NEARLY 50% CUT

Avista gas customers in Oregon saw a small change in their rates starting September 1, 2025. Average single-family customers will see an increase of 2% (\$1.36/month) while multi-family customers will see a small decrease of -1% (-\$0.30/month). Avista originally requested a 7% increase in rates for household customers. **CUB advocates helped cut the requested amount by nearly 50% for all customers.**

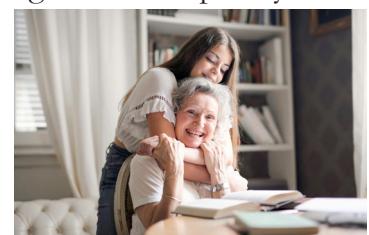
**BIG WIN:** This outcome includes a landmark agreement for Avista to pilot a program for moving homes to all-electric. This is the first time in Oregon that a gas utility has committed to not only allowing customers to receive incentives for switching away from gas, but also the **the first time a gas utility has agreed to fund a transition to electricity.**

## NEW DISCONNECTION PROTECTIONS ARE COMING

After for-profit utilities disconnected a record number of Oregonians in 2024, CUB and other advocates pushed regulators to add stronger protections. Regulators agreed to temporary winter protections last year. In 2025, we won new summer protections.

### New summer protections include:

- No disconnections during extreme summer weather
- Limitations on reconnection fees and upfront costs
- Improved support for medical certificate holders
- More communication on customer protections



### No one should lose their heating or cooling, especially in the worst of winter or summer.

While these new rules are temporary for 2025, permanent rules are on the way! By the end of this year, we will have permanent rules for the winter, with permanent summer rules coming next year. Protections apply to customers of Portland General Electric, Pacific Power, and Idaho Power.



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## CUB GOES UP AGAINST BIG TECH COMPANIES

### Data Centers Must Pay Their Own Energy Costs

This year, CUB has worked hard to **tackle a big source of rising energy costs for many Oregonians: data centers.** Data centers use a massive amount of electricity — an entire city's worth! A single 30 MW data center uses more electricity than the City of Ashland. Larger, 250 MW data centers, associated with AI, require a similar amount of energy to the City of Eugene.

And these city-sized energy users are coming to Oregon in droves. Since 2016, PGE has seen more than a 95% growth in energy demand from industrial customers, how data centers were classified before the POWER Act. Meanwhile, PGE's residential customers' energy demand has only increased 3.5% since 2016.

**We have never seen a single type of customer's energy demand outpace all others.  
Data centers' rapid growth is unprecedented.**

Now that we have passed the POWER Act (HB 3546), CUB has started working to make this law a reality to **hold data centers accountable for their own energy costs.**



Pass the POWER Act in Salem      Investigation into data center costs on all other customers      Regulators develop a biennial report on large load trends      Data centers start signing minimum 10 year contracts      Utilities expected to start charging new billing rates for data centers

## THE FIGHT CONTINUES: HOLDING CENTURYLINK ACCOUNTABLE

CenturyLink, also known as Lumen, has a problem. For years, CenturyLink has failed customers, especially seniors and rural communities, by not delivering on its promise to provide quality landline telephone service.

CUB has worked hard this year to hold CenturyLink accountable for fixing its unreliable service, especially when they're asking to increase customers' bills. CUB, along with Oregonians like you, has demanded that CenturyLink be **held financially responsible** if they don't fix its faulty service, and that **regulators don't raise rates** until its service is safe and reliable for all Oregon customers.



## CUB FIGHTS FOR CUSTOMERS IN THE COURTS

### CUB Sues the Feds Bonneville Power Administration

Oregon is facing overlapping energy challenges: rising utility bills, rising electricity demand from data centers, and stalling progress on meeting clean energy requirements. The last thing we need is for one of our region's largest clean energy suppliers to reduce ties with the Pacific Northwest. But that's exactly what Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is set to do.

This summer, CUB joined four other advocates across the region, represented by EarthJustice, in a lawsuit to try to reverse BPA's decision to splinter Western energy markets. BPA's decision would cost utility customers billions of dollars. **For all utilities, including PGE and Pacific Power, the decision would add \$400 million a year.** Utilities will pass these added costs onto customers, including Oregon families.

## CUB FIGHTS TO KEEP PROGRESS: UTILITY APPEALS

### Utilities Challenge Regulators Decisions

This year, utilities took to the courts to challenge what they view as unfavorable decisions from regulators. And it's no wonder—**CUB has secured some major wins for customers in the last few years that are not in favor of utility shareholders!**

Appeals included challenges to regulators holding strong to emissions reduction requirements, a landmark removal of gas expansion subsidies, a rejection of more costs to customers, and much more.

- 1 NW NATURAL APPEAL
- 2 PORTLAND GENERAL ELECTRIC APPEALS
- 2 PACIFIC POWER APPEALS

### BIG WIN: Courts Agree, Pacific Power Is Not Reducing Enough Emissions

Last year, the Oregon Public Utility Commission ruled that Pacific Power had not made enough progress on reducing emissions. By law, both PGE and Pacific Power must reduce emissions 100% by 2040. Instead of moving toward this goal, Pacific Power has cancelled investments in renewables and decided to take this decision to court.

Now, the Marion County Courts have agreed—Pacific Power is backsliding in not meeting climate mandates. The judge found, based on the record before him, that regulators' decision left no room for argument. CUB joined this suit with Sierra Club and Green Energy Institute.



WE KNOW CUB IS ON THE RIGHT TRACK WHEN THE UTILITIES TURN TO THE COURTS. THE UTILITIES ARE SEEING A REBALANCING OF THE INTERESTS TOWARD CUSTOMERS, NOT SHAREHOLDER PROFITS. THEY ARE SCARED THE SCALES WON'T TIP IN THEIR FAVOR. BUT CUB WON'T BACK DOWN.

- CLAIRE VALENTINE-FOSSUM  
CUB GENERAL COUNSEL



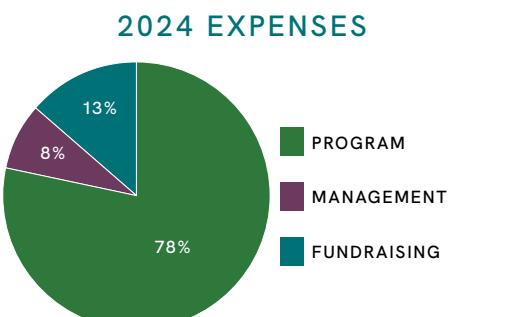
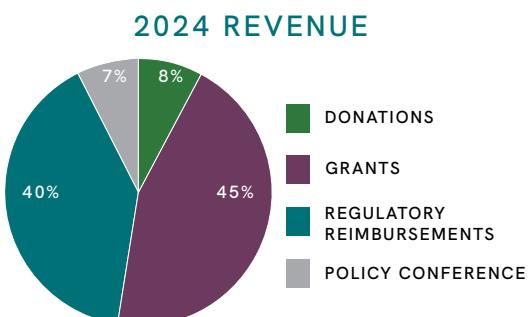
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## WE HAVE SOME NEW FACES MEET THE CUB STAFF

Our team has grown this year! Here is who represented household utility customers at CUB in 2025.



## CUB BY THE NUMBERS



## 2025 CUB ENERGY POLICY CONFERENCE CHANGING FOR A CHANGING CLIMATE



### Conference Highlights

On October 3rd, CUB's 15th annual policy conference, Changing for a Changing Climate, was held at the Sentinel Hotel in Portland, Oregon. Nearly 250 attendees came from all over the Pacific Northwest to engage in a day of networking, discussions, and community building.



Audience asks questions at a panel on data centers



Fireside chat with Letha Tawney and Janine Benner



Advocates celebrate with Representative Nathan Sosa



### 2025 Consumer Champion Representative Nathan Sosa

Nathan Sosa is the state representative for District 30, which includes Hillsboro, Helvetia, and Rock Creek. He is chair of the House Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection. He has been a legislator since 2022. Rep. Sosa was the Chief Sponsor of the Fairness and Affordability in Residential (FAIR) Energy Act (HB 3179).

## WHAT CUB MEMBERS WERE SAYING IN 2025

I FIGURE THAT CUB HAS PROBABLY SAVED ME MORE THAN I CONTRIBUTE, AND DONE A GREAT JOB OF PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT, NOT TO MENTION BEING A GREAT WATCHDOG KEEPING THOSE WHO WOULD PROFIT FROM MY UTILITY BILL PAYMENTS IN CHECK.

THANK YOU AND KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK.

- DAVID  
CUB MEMBER, ASHLAND

WE HAVE BEEN A MEMBER/DONOR TO CUB FROM ITS INCEPTION. AS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION, SERVING AS OUR CITIZEN LAWYER, RESEARCHING, WATCHDOGGING, AND TESTIFYING ON OUR BEHALF, WE APPRECIATE YOU. YOU'VE SAVED US UNTOLD DOLLARS IN ENERGY CHARGES OVER THE YEARS.

EVERY USER OF ENERGY IN OREGON WOULD BENEFIT THEMSELVES, AND THEIR NEIGHBORS, BY BEING A MEMBER OF CUB.

- FRAN  
CUB MEMBER, BEND



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## CUB BOARD ELECTIONS

All ballots must be received in the  
CUB office by Friday, January 2, 2026.



### Members Choose the CUB Board

According to CUB's bylaws, members of the Board of Governors are elected to four-year terms by CUB's members within each of Oregon's five U.S. Congressional Districts. Candidates must run for a position in the congressional district in which they live. The candidates appearing on this ballot have been certified as living in the districts they seek to represent.

## OREGON

### CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS

#### District 1 - Suzanne Bonamici

Includes all of Clatsop, Columbia and Tillamook Counties, most of Washington County excluding the extreme southeast, and a portion of southwest Multnomah County in Portland.

#### District 2 - Cliff Bentz

Includes all of Baker, Crook, Gilliam, Grant, Harney, Hood River, Jackson, Josephine, Klamath, Lake, Malheur, Morrow, Sherman, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa, Wasco, Wheeler counties, all but a small sliver of Jefferson County and the southeastern portions of Deschutes (excluding Bend and areas to its northwest) and Douglas Counties.

#### District 3 - Maxine Dexter

Includes most of Multnomah County, including Gresham, Troutdale, and most of Portland east of the Willamette River. It also includes the northeastern part of Clackamas County and all of Hood River County.

#### District 4 - Val Hoyle

Includes the southern half of Oregon's coastal counties, including Coos, Curry, Lincoln, Lane, and Benton counties, alongside the northwestern half of Douglas County.

#### District 5 - Janelle Bynum

Includes a sliver of Multnomah County, the majority of Clackamas County, eastern Marion County, all of Linn County, a small section of southwest Jefferson County, and the northwest portion of Deschutes County.

#### District 6 - Andrea Salinas

Includes Polk and Yamhill Counties, in addition to portions of Marion, Clackamas, and Washington Counties.

## CUB BOARD ELECTION 2025

## CUB BOARD CANDIDATES

### DISTRICT 2: SHELLEY BATTY

#### About Shelley

Shelley is a native Oregonian who has lived in every Oregon congressional district. Presently Shelley lives in Lakeview, where she represents CUB members in District 2. Along with being the Town of Lakeview Finance Director, Shelley and her husband own Tall Town Bike & Camp, supporting the many cyclists, skiers, hikers and long-distance backpackers who are discovering the region.

Shelley is committed to community involvement. In addition to the CUB Board, she sits on the Lake County Library Board and is involved in the Dolly Parton Imagination Library Literacy Program through the library. She is part of the volunteer committee working on restoring and reopening the historical Alger Theater. In her spare time, she is an avid cyclist, former marathon walker and sings in the local ladies' choir.



### DISTRICT 4: CHRISTY ANDERSON BREKKEN

#### About Christy

Christy Anderson Brecken is a Legal, Policy, and Partnerships Advisor based in Corvallis, and is Of Counsel with Felling, Reid, and Duxbury, based in Albany, Oregon. She assists locally-grounded organizations in strategic planning across legal, economic, social, cultural, and geographical domains. Her law practice specializes in farm organization and succession planning to preserve the legacy of Oregon family farms through mission-driven solutions, such as working lands and conservation easements, stewardship trusts, agrivoltaics, and other organizational innovations.



Christy received her law degree from the University of Minnesota in 2005, Masters degree in Agricultural and Resource Economics at Oregon State University in 2011, and her Dr. Philos. degree from the Norwegian University of Environment and Life Sciences in 2024. She lives with her husband, two children, and dog in Corvallis, where they are avid bike commuters and engaged community members. She enjoys knitting, board games, gardening, farmers markets, cooking, and eating.



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## CUB BALLOT

All ballots must be received in the  
CUB office by Friday, January 2, 2026.

### VOTE ONLY FOR THE CANDIDATE IN YOUR DISTRICT

Cut on Dotted Lines and Return Ballot to CUB in the enclosed envelope.

#### DISTRICT 2:

Shelley Batty  
 Write in: \_\_\_\_\_

#### DISTRICT 5:

Dan Cartmell  
 Write in: \_\_\_\_\_

#### DISTRICT 4:

Christy Anderson Brekken  
 Write in: \_\_\_\_\_

#### DISTRICT 6:

Christopher Schmitt  
 Write in: \_\_\_\_\_

**VOTE FOR  
THE BOARD**

#### In order to vote you must:

- Be a current CUB member (donation of \$5 or more in the last year)
- Live in the congressional district of the candidate for whom you are voting.

If your membership has lapsed, you can join by sending a donation of \$5 or more with your ballot in the attached envelope.

**Don't See Your District?  
No Need to Vote!**

Ballots are sent to all recent and current CUB members. If you do not see a candidate listed in your district, you do not need to vote in this election.

**CUB BOARD  
2025  
ELECTION**

## CUB BOARD CANDIDATES

#### DISTRICT 5: DAN CARTMELL

##### About Dan

Dan is a retired engineer with a 38-year career in the aerospace industry focused on the development and testing of aircraft flight control systems, aircraft integration & test facilities, and flight simulators. Following his retirement in 2018, Dan made it his mission to learn about and advocate for the clean energy transition as the most effective solution to limit global warming and climate change. Dan has become involved in local volunteer advocacy groups, including Electrify Oregon and Energize Bend, which are focused on educating and coaching the public about home and vehicle electrification choices.



Dan holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering and completed the Energy Innovation and Emerging Technologies Certificate program at the Stanford Center for Professional Development in 2020. Dan and his wife have lived in Bend for the past 7 years and take every chance to get outdoors in Central Oregon, particularly for alpine skiing, hiking, and mountain biking. They also enjoy SCUBA diving in the tropics and other international travel.

#### DISTRICT 6: CHRISTOPHER SCHMITT

##### About Chris

Chris is a retired federal government analyst and investigative journalist. He most recently was a senior analyst for the U.S. Government Accountability Office, the investigative arm of the U.S. Congress. There, his work focused on research, investigations, and analysis as directed by law and members of Congress, in areas including: waste, fraud, and abuse in various federal programs; federal safety oversight of the commercial space industry; abusive practices in the college student debit card industry; and investor outcomes and federal regulator performance during the Madoff investment fraud. Before that, he was an investigative journalist for several publications, including the San Jose Mercury News, U.S. News & World Report, and Business Week. His work included: government secrecy; the environment; health care; the Enron scandal; unequal justice for minority defendants in the court system; the influence of money in politics; and public employee retirement fraud.



He received a J.D. from George Mason University; an M.B.A from Boston University; and a B.A. from the University of Massachusetts/Amherst. Chris is a Rhode Island native, and currently lives in Polk County, with his wife and two cats. He enjoys landscape photography, kayaking, exploring Oregon, and, while working, mentoring young staff.