

The Bear Facts

1984 - 2014



Citizens Utility Board
30 Years and Counting **of Oregon**

Summer 2014

The Times They Are A Changin'

A Message From Bob Jenks

The last few months at CUB have been both challenging and exciting as we've reorganized our staff, saying goodbye to some longtime friends, and welcoming some new colleagues.

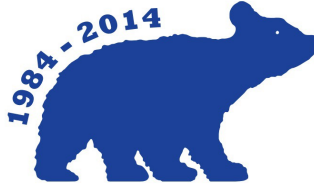
When I came to CUB in 1991, we had 1.5 staff members trying to do everything from working with the Board of Directors and raising money, to representing customers before the Public Utility Commission (PUC) and legislature. Today, we have 12 people working for CUB and the CUB Policy Center (CPC). We are able to get involved in dozens of proceedings before the PUC, lobby the legislature, run a website and consumer hotline to help customers deal with the unregulated telecommunications market, raise the money to fund the organization, and deal with all the issues that come with running a non-profit, all resulting in saving customers millions of dollars every year,

Over the years we have added staff as necessary for various projects. Last year, we decided to spend some time looking at the structure of our staff, including getting advice from organizations of similar size. This led to the decision to reorganize our staff, create a Development and Communications Department, and establish a full-time Office Manager position. The goal is to strengthen our development work and ensure that our staff has the administrative support that is needed.

As a result of this reorganization, we said goodbye to two longtime CUB employees. Karen Jaffe worked for CUB for 13 years directing our membership program and other aspects of our grassroots fundraising. Through membership campaigns and quarterly newsletters, she raised much of the money allowing me to spend time at the PUC fighting for customers. SA Anders worked for CUB and the CPC for 5 years. She organized and developed the annual CUB Policy Conference, oversaw our bookkeeping and financial operations, took on special projects, and supported me as the Executive Director. We are grateful for both Karen and SA Anders and wish them well in their new endeavors.



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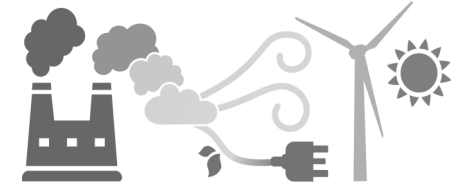


 CUB Policy Center



UNIVERSITY OF OREGON
School of Law

2014 CUB Policy Conference!



CHANGING CLIMATE Adapting to New Regulations

October 24th, 2014 – Portland, OR
cubpolicycenter.org/conference

The CUB Policy Center is once again partnering with the University of Oregon School of Law to present our fourth annual Policy Conference, *Changing Climate: Adapting to New Regulations*, on October 24th in Portland. In light of the EPA's new proposed rules for existing coal plants, and other proposed regulations limiting carbon emissions, this year's conference theme focuses on how to navigate these changes while keeping prices fair and affordable. We anticipate that CLE and BPI credit will be available to attendees, and discounted rates are available for those who are students, or un/under-employed. You can view the complete agenda and register by visiting cubpolicycenter.org/conference.

Born In '84 - Citizens' Utility Board: A Transformer* For 30 Years!

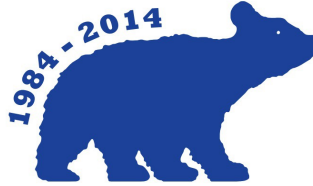
The year 1984 brought us so many events. Steve Jobs made light of an Orwellian future when he introduced the original Macintosh computer "for the rest of us." Bruce Springsteen's *Born in the USA* and Prince's *Purple Rain* stormed the airwaves. Tetris swept the nation, transfixing arcade-goers and home-gamers alike. *Ghostbusters* and *This Is Spinal Tap* brought a nation to its knees with laughter. The inaugural TED Conference was launched, inspiring a new generation of thinkers. And last but not least, on November 6th, Oregonians voted in droves to establish the Citizens' Utility Board of Oregon (CUB) – an independent and non-partisan nonprofit organization created by consumers and for consumers.

CUB is organized around a simple premise: that the interests of the most powerful should never outweigh those of the least. **For 30 years**, when utilities have gone before the Public Utility Commission to propose new rate-hikes or expensive projects, CUB has been there – standing strong in the face of mounting pressures – to safeguard Oregonians' interests. In 1999, CUB dismantled an Enron Corporation bid to deregulate the electricity market in Oregon, leading to the creation of the Energy Trust of Oregon. CUB also fought to ensure that when utilities don't pay taxes, customers aren't charged for them. And as of January 2014, CUB is now the residential rate-payer advocate for water, wastewater, and sewer-service customers in Portland.

In 30 years of service on behalf of Oregonians, CUB has **saved ratepayers a whopping \$5.9 billion**. And by the end of this year, we will have eclipsed the \$6 billion mark! On the flip-side, CUB **members have contributed an incredible total of \$3.5 million**. This means that CUB saves Oregonians \$1,700 for every \$1 contributed. That is, your gift of only \$100 results in \$170,000 in rate-payer savings.

And this is why we think it's time to party like it's nineteen eighty...four! **Join us for a special 30th Anniversary Celebration**, 30 Years of CUB: Born in '84, on **December 4th from 5:30 to 8:30** at the Ecotrust Building in Portland's Pearl District. The night will include a Born in '84 trivia game, 80's tribute band, local libations, and a catered reception with seasonal hors d'oeuvres. So save the date and watch for more details to come!

*Yes, 80's fans, Transformers hit the scene in 1984!



CUB is Working to Protect Ratepayers

CUB's small team of lawyers and analysts are battling many of the state's private utilities on a number of cases before the Public Utility Commission (PUC). As always, CUB's goal is to get a fair deal for Oregon families.

EPA Clean Power Plan. The EPA has proposed a draft rule which requires states to reduce carbon pollution from utilities. CUB led the effort to get PGE to agree to close the Boardman coal plant, saving customers millions by avoiding expensive pollution control equipment. That Boardman agreement will create additional benefits as Oregon develops a plan to meet the EPA rule. Because much of the power consumed in Oregon is generated in other states, CUB is also keeping its eye on the 9 other states which will affect Oregon rates. CUB supports reducing carbon pollution and will work hard to ensure that it is done in the least costly way possible.

Natural Gas Utilities. CUB is involved in a series of PUC cases involving gas utilities. In one proceeding, NW Natural is trying to get customers to pay for clean-up of environmental contamination that the company created before most of us were born. In another proceeding, the utility is using ratepayer assets to support non-utility operations without adequately compensating customers. CUB is arguing in both cases that NW Natural is not being fair to customers. In addition, with gas prices rising after last year's cold winter, CUB is examining the requests by all the gas utilities to raise rates.

Telecommunications. Oregon's largest traditional phone companies, CenturyLink and Frontier, proposed new price plans that allowed for significant increases in residential rates. Originally, CenturyLink was asking to be allowed to raise rates to any level it wanted, but CUB fought back arguing that the PUC has to maintain a price cap for essential services. After several months of negotiation, an agreement was reached that will allow a modest increase in prices for basic local phone service, but will prohibit the phone companies from seeking substantial increases. In addition, both companies have agreed to make certain infrastructure investments that are important to maintaining high quality phone service throughout the state.

Investments in Coal Plants.

In recent years, CUB has worked to scrutinize proposals by utilities to invest billions of dollars into old coal plants. With federal regulation of carbon emissions from power plants on the horizon, such investments in coal plants could turn out to be costly mistakes. CUB has argued that both Idaho Power and Pacific Power did not properly consider potentially cheaper alternatives to their coal investments. This July the PUC issued orders agreeing with CUB and criticizing the utilities for not adequately considering alternatives.

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Heading up our new Development and Communications Department is Pamela White, who comes with many years of experience as a non-profit Development Director. Aiding her in this new department are our Communications & Marketing Associate Amelia Lamb and our new Development Associate Samuel Pastrick. Our new Office Manager, Leslie Murray, has already proven to have the right skills and temperament as she began her job by managing this reorganization.

I am excited about these changes! We anticipate that these new additions to the team will facilitate financial growth, enhanced communications, improved organizational structure, and will free me and our program staff to focus on what we do best: ensure that our utilities are making wise investments and save customers money.



610 SW Broadway
Suite 400
Portland, OR 97205

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Renew, Re-Connect Spread The Word

Why become a member of CUB? The answer is simple: Because we safeguard your consumer interests, and those of all Oregonians. When it comes to rising energy, water, and sewer costs, or battling the onslaught of climate change, CUB is the only agency in Oregon working with both your long-term consumer interests and pocketbook in mind.

Here are just a few examples of how your membership dollars support CUB's important work:

- This year, once again, the major energy providers proposed new rate hikes. And while the cases are not final, CUB has already **saved customers millions** of dollars in 2014 alone!
- In early 2014, Portland City Council adopted a resolution designating CUB as the **residential rate-payer advocate** for Portland water and sewer customers.
- Oregon will be less affected by the Obama Administration's proposal to mitigate climate change through emission reduction rules for power plants. This is a direct result of CUB's work to close Boardman power plant and help **secure Oregon's national leadership** on the issues of energy efficiency, climate change, and consumer protection.

Renew your membership if it's time, re-connect if it's already lapsed, and spread the word about CUB! Join our mission protecting the interests and consumer rights of all Oregonians by using the enclosed envelope or checking us out on the web at <http://oregoncub.org>.