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The Honorable Lee Beyer  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court St. NE, S-411,  
Salem, Oregon 97301

**RE: OPPOSITION TO ENERGY TRUST OF OREGON IMPACT IN HB2017**

Dear Senator Beyer,

I'm writing on behalf of McKinstry, a leading energy efficiency firm in Portland, to express our strong opposition to provisions in HB 2017 (transportation bill) that makes changes to the public purpose funds currently dedicated to improving building energy efficiency as managed by the Energy Trust of Oregon. These funds, collected from some but not all Oregon utility ratepayers, have been extremely effective in achieving valuable and cost effective energy savings in buildings occupied by those who pay into the fund. As a result of this work, the Oregon economy and environment are big winners.

These funds have allowed us to support local public agencies, including K-12 schools, in their efforts to reduce unnecessary operating expenditures in order to support maintaining the highest quality environments for public services. Through energy efficiency projects, we are able to help these agencies redirect dollars they were previously spending on high utility bills to hiring teachers and staff, and investing in higher quality learning environments. This not only provides and maintains local jobs, it creates better infrastructure for the agencies we support.

This ill-advised language in 2017 would subvert the effectiveness of this effort. While investment in electric vehicle infrastructure has merit, the Oregon Legislature should find an appropriate source for that investment without detracting from the success of the Energy Trust in improving the efficiency of the built environment, while supporting local jobs and improving infrastructure. McKinstry strongly opposes this language. Please remove this provision from the bill as it is further considered by the Legislature.

Sincerely,

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