

September 15, 2014  
Oregon Public Utility Commission  
3930 Fairview Industrial Dr SE  
Salem, OR 97302-1166

PO Box 1088  
Salem, OR 97308-1088

**RE: Second Round Comments –UM1622 Gas Cost Effectiveness Measures**

Oregon Tradeswomen, Inc. is writing to make preliminary comments on the issues associated with UM 1622 before the September 30<sup>th</sup> public meeting. We appreciate this opportunity to bring forward the impact on the low-income women we serve.

Oregon Tradeswomen, Inc. has worked since 2009 with Clean Energy Works Oregon to create pathways for entry level, living-wage work in weatherization for over 47 graduates of Oregon Tradeswomen, Inc.'s Trades and Apprenticeship Career Class. These green jobs have created strong work experience and in some cases have contributed to workers moving into high-paying, high-skilled apprenticeship programs. CEWO and others in the home performance industry understands the importance of green jobs being accessible to our entire community and has made enormous strides in creating a diverse workforce through partnership with Oregon Tradeswomen, Inc. Their work in connecting our program with (subsidized) training opportunities for students has been pivotal in the success of women in the field of home performance. They have been strong partners that are responsive and flexible to the changing needs of our students and the industry.

This systematic approach has led to professionalism of the industry; both providing a clear career path to move from poverty to the middle class for our graduates, and providing skilled, quality workers for industry. These workers are more skilled, so they provide home and business owners with a more quality project that leads to higher energy savings and home comfort. We urge you to take these factors into consideration in the cost effectiveness discussion.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Connie Ashbrook  
Executive Director  
Oregon Tradeswomen, Inc.