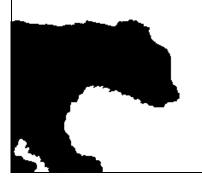
# BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON

### **UM 1461**

In the Matter of	)
INVESTIGATION INTO RATE	)
STRUCTURES FOR ELECTRIC	)
VEHICLE CHARGING	)

## CLOSING COMMENTS OF THE CITIZENS' UTILITY BOARD OF OREGON

April 1, 2011



#### BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

#### OF OREGON

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STRUCTURES FOR ELECTRIC ) OREGON	
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)	

#### I. Introduction

CUB appreciates the opportunity to submit closing comments in this docket. A number of parties submitted thought-provoking comments in the opening round and in response to the Commission's bench request, but for the most part it appears that the parties participating in this docket are on the same page. My purpose in submitting these comments is primarily to reiterate a few key points regarding CUB's stance on emerging technologies in the EV and Smart Grid fields.

#### **II. Ford-Microsoft Collaboration**

On March 10, 2011, PGE hosted a presentation by Ford and Microsoft to discuss the companies' collaborative efforts in advancing technology for metering EV charging. The project involves Ford's emerging Focus Electric, which will be released in November 2011, and the Microsoft Utility Rate Service (MURS), that company's new platform that provides an interface for consumers to view available rate options from electric utilities. This platform will aggregate rate information from Microsoft's utility

partners, store the information on a secure server, and allow customers to access the relevant rate information based on their location (defined by ZIP code). Customers will be able to see detailed descriptions of all rate plans that are available from their utility, allowing them to make informed choices that best fit their household usage profile. Utilities will benefit from the use of a system that reduces the need for direct customer support contact and is inexpensive to maintain and update.

Ford also intends to utilize MURS in the charging software onboard the Focus Electric. The vehicle will be able to communicate with MURS to determine the vehicle owner's rate plan and the time that it is charging to coincide with the most favorable rates under a time-of-use plan.

CUB sees a great deal of potential in this particular technology, as it takes advantage of the most intelligent features of the new emerging class of EVs. MURS should allow for an easier customer experience in selecting rates, while Ford's new vehicles will help EV owners minimize their charging costs. While not specifically recommending that Oregon utilities become partners with Microsoft and utilize the MURS service, CUB does recommend that utilities move quickly to adopt this type of technology.

The capability of the Focus Electric and other EVs to utilize onboard technology to meter electricity and report usage to utilities, either via MURS or another platform, is the next logical step here, and it is likely that such technology will be available in the very near future. Such technology will, as stated in CUB's prior testimony in this docket, enable utilities to take advantage of the existing capabilities of the EV and/or EVSE and avoid expensive metering upgrades to provide separate metering for EV

<sup>1</sup> CUB Combined Response to Opening Comments and Bench Request, page 4.

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owners. This will allow for better consumer choice in terms of rate plans, as well as lower overall system costs to the utility.

Respectfully Submitted, April 1, 2011

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### **UM 1461- CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that, on this 1<sup>st</sup> day of April, 2011, I served the foregoing **CLOSING COMMENTS OF THE CITIZENS' UTILITY BOARD OF OREGON** in docket UM 1461 upon each party listed in the UM 1461 OPUC Service List by email and, where paper service is not waived, by U.S. mail, postage prepaid, and upon the Commission by email and by sending an original and one copy by U.S. mail, postage prepaid, to the Commission's Salem offices.

(W denotes waiver of paper service)

(C denotes service of Confidential material authorized)

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