



## Senator Alan Olsen

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Oregon State Capitol  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Committee hears Olsen proposal to increase legislative oversight of Energy Trust of Oregon**

**Salem, OR** – A Senate committee recently held a public hearing on Senate Bill 807, legislation introduced by Senator Alan Olsen (R-Canby) demanding a comprehensive audit and legislative oversight of the Energy Trust of Oregon.

“Hundreds of millions of dollars flow from families and small businesses into this program with little legislative oversight,” said Olsen. “I want to shed some light on where this money is going and what it is accomplishing, and take a hard look at our priorities. I think the legislature owes that much to ratepayers.”

In 1999 the legislature created the Public Purpose Charge, which required a 3% surcharge on utility bills. Gas and electric customers currently pay 6%. The public purpose charge funds the Energy Trust of Oregon (ETO), a private, nonprofit organization established through rule by the Public Utility Commission. The ETO will receive more than \$146 million in 2013 from the public purpose charge. Run by a self-appointed board, the ETO uses this money to subsidize residential and commercial energy upgrades and above market costs of renewable energy.

“This program started with an original budget of \$20 million in 2002, but has ballooned to over \$146 million with no legislative oversight or accountability,” said Olsen. “We need to reexamine our priorities to determine if the large growth in this budget is justified and being put to good use. While our classrooms remain chronically underfunded, the ETO has grown astronomically. I think that’s worthy of a hard look.”

Olsen’s legislative agenda includes creating a sound energy policy for the state as well as growing the number of family-supporting jobs in Oregon and increasing funding for K-12 education.

Olsen and his wife Juanita make their home in Canby. Olsen is a veteran of the United States Army, serving from 1969 to 1971. He is a general contractor and small business owner building homes and structures across Oregon. Senate District 20 includes Canby, Oregon City, Damascus, Estacada and rural parts of Clackamas County.

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