



Senator Alan Olsen

Oregon State Capitol
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Senate takes first step towards transparency at non-governmental agency

Salem, OR – A bill adopted by the Senate Tuesday will bring needed oversight to the Energy Trust of Oregon, a non-governmental agency that receives little legislative scrutiny, but spends almost \$300 million in ratepayer money. Senator Alan Olsen (R-Canby) believes a new level of analysis is a good first step towards bringing more transparency and oversight to the Energy Trust of Oregon.

“The Energy Trust of Oregon has grown by more than 400% since it was created in 1999, without any oversight from the legislature,” said Olsen. “I’m hopeful this performance measure can help shed some light on this agency and the way it spends ratepayer dollars.”

Over the next two years the Energy Trust of Oregon will collect almost \$300 million in ratepayer money through a 3% surcharge on utility bills. Run by a self-appointed board, the Energy Trust of Oregon uses this money to subsidize residential and commercial energy upgrades and above market costs of renewable energy. Since its creation, there has been no re-examination of the public purpose charge or the intent of the Energy Trust of Oregon.

“A close look at the role and scope of the Energy Trust of Oregon is long overdue,” said Olsen “This is an important part of keeping utility rates affordable for families.”

The Public Utility Commission is the only government entity with any oversight over the Energy Trust of Oregon. For the first time, House Bill 5043-A, the Public Utility Commission budget bill, contains a performance measure that will require the PUC to report to the legislature on the Energy Trust of Oregon.

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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