

Community Action Directors of Oregon

Senate Bill 461 -- Scheduled Testimony and Talking Points

Phil Donovan, NW Public Affairs

- *Summary of Legislation & Background* -- CADO's goal to expand the existing Oregon Energy Assistance Program (OEAP) from \$10 million to \$15 million and capture the customer growth and inflation.

Jerralynn Ness, Community Action Organization

- *Introduction* -- Use this opportunity to introduce yourself and share what you are doing in Washington County to promote solutions to poverty.
- *Thank Senator Deckert* -- Senator Deckert has been extremely supportive of low-income bill payment assistance. Take a second to share how he first got engaged in this issue and thank him for sponsoring our legislation.
- *Duke/El Paso Settlement Funds* -- Share the positive impact the one-time Duke/El Paso Settlement Funds have had this past year and stress that these were one-time funds and they are nearly exhausted.
- *Highlight Washington County's Energy Assistance Program* -- Share how your energy assistance program is run, who receives assistance and an example of how this program helped a family in Washington County.

Client, Community Action Organization

- *Real Life Story* -- To illustrate the impact of the energy assistance program, nothing is more compelling than a real life example. Please take this time to share how this program made a difference in your life.

Jim Slusher, Mid-Columbia CAC – Joan Cote, OECA Legislative Chair

- *Introduction* -- Take a minute to introduce yourselves and illustrate the work your organizations are doing to help families and seniors in your community.
- *2007 Energy Assistance Snapshot* -- Share with committee members the 2007 Oregon Low-Income Energy Assistance Snapshot to highlight the statewide need for the OEAP. (Jim and Joan can share the HUGE task of discussing the statewide need for additional energy assistance that the message contained in the Snapshot.)
- *Highlight Mid-Columbia CAC's Energy Assistance Program* -- Use this as a chance to share the tremendous need you are seeing locally for energy assistance. Illustrate what you have been able to accomplish with this program in your community