



Media Release

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New Oregon Utility Commissioner Confirmed

SALEM, Ore. – The Oregon Senate recently confirmed Les Perkins as commissioner of the Oregon Public Utility Commission (PUC) for a four-year term ending February 15, 2028. Perkins, who was appointed by Gov. Kotek and recommended for Senate confirmation late last year, will serve on the three-member commission with Chair Megan Decker and Commissioner Letha Tawney.

“I am thrilled to welcome Commissioner Perkins to the Oregon PUC team,” said Chair Megan Decker. “He joins us at a time of historic opportunities and challenges for the regulated utility sector in Oregon, and his perspectives will be a valuable addition to our decision making.”

“I look forward to working with Commissioner Perkins to achieve our mission, ensuring Oregonians have access to safe, reliable and fairly priced utility services,” added Commissioner Letha Tawney. “Our work is all the more critical to households and businesses in this time of significant cost pressure and rapid change in the energy system.”

In addition to representing the rural south end of Hood River County as a Hood River County Commissioner since 2001, Perkins worked as general manager of the Farmers Irrigation District, which delivers water to nearly 6,000 acres of high value farmland in the lower Hood River Valley as well as produces over 22,000,000 kilowatt hours of hydropower annually. Previously, Perkins was co-founder of Farmers Conservation Alliance, a non-profit organization focused on finding resource solutions for rural communities, specifically around energy and water.

Perkins said, “I’m excited about the opportunity to use the knowledge and experience gained throughout my career to help shape Oregon’s energy future to meet the demands of the coming decades while balancing the needs of the diverse communities that make up our state.”

The PUC regulates customer rates and services of the state’s investor-owned electric and natural gas utilities, including Portland General Electric, Idaho Power, Pacific Power, Avista, Cascade Natural, and NW Natural. The PUC also regulates landline telephone providers and select water companies. For more information about the PUC, visit [oregon.gov/puc](https://www.oregon.gov/puc).

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