

PORTLAND UTILITY BOARD

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To: Mayor Ted Wheeler

CC: Commissioner Nick Fish
Commissioner Amanda Fritz
Commissioner Chloe Eudaly
Commissioner Dan Saltzman
Auditor Mary Hull Caballero

Re: Assignment of the Bureau of Environmental Services and the
Portland Water Bureau

Date: June 6, 2018

Portland residents receive a combined utility bill. The individual decisions of the Bureau of Environmental Services and the Portland Water Bureau are combined in their effects on customers. Having the utility bureaus under the management of one City Commissioner was a recommendation of the Blue-Ribbon Commission which we strongly support. In addition to the many benefits for the bureaus, singular leadership from City Council has positively contributed to our task in providing community oversight. We hope you will continue this management approach as you reassign bureaus.

These utilities are large, complex bureaus that benefit from long-term stability in leadership as the last few years have demonstrated. We think there is room to improve how these bureaus work together, both in presenting information to the public and in coordinating similar work such as communications, equity, budgeting, and financial planning. One commissioner facilitates holistic thinking about the efficient delivery of utility services and enables critical examination of issues of affordability and value of the services provided to customers.

Thank you for considering this input.