

Submitter: Sommer Yesenofski  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Commerce and Consumer Protection  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3179

As a newer homeowner and customer of Portland General Electric (PGE), I've been shocked by how quickly my energy bill has gone up over the past few years. Oregon's largest for-profit utilities have raised billing rates by nearly 50% since 2021 for residential customers.

I worry about myself and my neighbors struggling to pay the rising cost of energy bills. I'm personally facing a tight budget, balancing other rising costs of living alongside student loans and health expenses.

An estimated 152,500 Oregonians behind on bills were disconnected by the three largest energy utilities -- nearly the population of Salem.

For this reason, I urge you to support the FAIR Energy Act, HB 3179. This bill would do several things to benefit all utility customers in the state, including myself and my community.

1. Reduce the frequency of rate increases, so that those with limited incomes can better plan for and manage their utility expenses
2. Establish rules that keep the utility companies from raising rates in the depths of winter, when bills are highest and family finances stressed already, and
3. Improve the transparency to customers from Utility companies, so that the public can better understand how such rate increases will benefit them.

Thank you for your attention to this issue. Please support HB 3179 to make energy more affordable, transparent and fair for families like mine.