



Chair Sosa, Vice-Chair Chaich, Vice-Chair Osborne, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Anahi Segovia Rodriguez, and I am the Energy Justice Coordinator at Verde. At Verde, we believe that our environment is at the heart of all issues of livability, security, and wealth and while we are located in the Cully Neighborhood, our advocacy reaches the entire state.

Over the last two years, I have intervened in multiple rate cases where we successfully advocated for lowering proposed bill increases. However, not everyone can participate in these processes, as most cases require legal representation for example - an attorney or expert witnesses. Through workshops and community outreach to educate our community members about the ongoing dockets in the Public Utility Commission, we work to bridge the gap between complex regulatory decisions and the real-life struggles of ratepayers. And in these workshops, We have heard firsthand from individuals who are forced to choose between buying food and paying their energy bills.

That's why HB 3179 is so important. This bill will allow the Public Utility Commission to consider the full economic impact of rate increases on households, ensuring that decisions reflect the realities that people are living through. It will also increase transparency, requiring utilities to provide clear information about cost categories in residential customer rates and expected rate adjustments. Additionally, HB 3179 will help shift rate increases away from the winter months, giving families much-needed relief during the time of year when energy bills are highest.

Today, you will hear similar testimonies from community members and partners who also see these struggles firsthand. We need to ensure that energy remains affordable and that our policies reflect the needs of the people most impacted by these decisions. By supporting HB 3179, we can help protect Oregon families from disproportionate energy burdens and promote a more equitable energy system.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Anahi Segovia Rodriguez
Energy Justice Coordinator
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