

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

Good morning,

Recently PGE boasted a 2 billion dollar profit for last year. They have increased utility charges 50% since 2020. They have lost a lawsuit and passed that financial cost on to the consumers with a Wildfire Mitigation Costs recovery fee. Solar energy helps the public but is inconvenient to PGE's bottom line so they instituted a Community Solar Cost Recovery, Solar Payment Option Cost Recovery. They have a Pandemic Costs. Pandemic cost? Something happens in the world, not the consumers fault, and they charge the public? They are still charging the public, where's the pandemic? PGE made 2 billion dollars last year, profit. That is criminal. Look up the statistics and see how many people have been losing electricity service because of the extreme cost. I live in an 850' foot apartment and last month my bill was \$140. I didn't use any heat, barley cooked. The main use of electricity was electronics and two showers per day. The month prior to that it was \$168, same situation. PGE is part of the cause for the homeless situation with their exorbitant cost. It's basically legalized theft and extortion. PGE is a Monopoly. That definition is; Monopolies can harm consumers and the economy by allowing a single company to set prices higher than they would be in a competitive market. That's what is happening. Yet every year they propose a rate increase of 10-15 % that is always approved. Regulation and reduction of cost. Take back 30% of the last 5 years 50% increase. Returning the stolen money, from their 2 billion dollar profit, to the consumer would be nice but at the minimum they should reduce rates and have regulations on how they make increases. The regulatory commission should also have oversight that works. Stop the theft. Help with reducing the homeless rate by regulating and reducing PGE's prices. With rent prices and the electric cost no one can afford anything else. Those that try eventually end up homeless because of their inability to pay living cost. After the PGE bill arrives people have to choose between eating and lights.