

TO: Senate Committee on Energy and Environment  
RE: Support of SB 88 Get the Junk Out of Rates Bill  
DATE: Feb 27, 2025

Dear Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Brock Smith, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Prof. Janet Lorenzen. I live in Salem, OR and work at Willamette University. I am writing because I was shocked to find out that my electricity bill pays for more than electricity and connection to the grid! I support SB 88 to make sure that advertising, legal fees, and lobbying costs come out of company profits, **not my wallet**.

I support SB 88 because:

- It is unfair for utility companies to be able to put anything they want into their bills as **hidden fees**. We fought this battle with credit card companies and now we need to do it again with utilities.
- If we don't even know what we're paying for how can we object to paying for it? A bill should tell you what you are paying for! Utility companies should have to be **transparent** about what they are charging us for.
- As a climate activist I do not want my utility costs, which I have no choice about paying, to go to **lawsuits against our climate protection laws**.
- To **incentivize energy efficiency** people need to be able to see their bills go down. If their bills include a bunch of junk fees any decrease in energy use won't make much of an impact on one's bill.
- The **Governor's priority** is affordable housing and getting the junk out of rates should be a part of that.
- Lowering utility bills is **urgent!** Energy burden is a state-wide problem. The most energy burdened households are in rural Oregon.

I am tightening my belt and putting off purchases because of inflation and higher utility costs, as well as increasing property taxes and HOA fees. If I have to tighten my belt, then utility companies should have to do the same.

Oregon's largest for-profit utilities have raised customers' bills by about 50% in four years. Portland General Electric (PGE) made \$313 million in profits in 2024, a record high! Cutting unnecessary charges from our utility bills is an easy way for state leaders to deliver immediate relief.

I urge you to support SB 88 and take action immediately.

Sincerely,  
Prof. Janet Lorenzen  
Salem, Oregon