

TO: Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
RE: Support SB 88
DATE: February 28, 2025

Dear Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Smith, and Members of the Senate Energy and Environment Committee

My name is Ellie Kim, a Sociology student attending Willamette University, and I strongly encourage the Committee to support SB 88, which would prohibit an electric or gas company from recovering from ratepayers costs or expenses associated with advertising, political influence, litigation, penalties or fines and certain compensation.

To guarantee that Oregonians are only paying for the energy that they consume and not for corporate profits, supporting SB 88 is a necessary step. Rising energy costs have forced several families and small, local businesses to choose between paying their rent and turning on their heat in the winter. **Do we really have to choose which daily necessities we can afford just to live?** For profit-utilities like Portland General Electric (PGE) have raised rates twice in a row while passing on needless costs like **advertising, lobbyist fees, and industry association dues, putting their record-breaking \$313 million in profits** leeches off by their consumers. It's time for Oregon leaders to intervene and step up against unnecessary fees, as state-regulated utilities have **raised their costs by about 50% in just four years.**

States like Colorado, Maine, and Connecticut have already followed suit by enacting legislation prohibiting corporate utility companies from requiring consumers to cover their legal and lobbying costs, SB 88 follows their lead. The burden of wildfire damage, growing fossil fuel prices, and corporate advertising **should not come out of our pockets, but rather from corporate profits.** This bill will also give us the opportunity to have **transparency** on what these monopoly corporations are using. We should **invest in renewable energy solutions** that will promote long-term environmental sustainability and economic stability for our communities rather than directing funds toward corporate interests. Alleviate the pressures and financial burdens on working families, and advocate for a more equitable and responsible energy finance system by passing SB 88.

Supporting SB 88 is the right decision if you genuinely care about the lives and welfare of Oregonians. A healthy, steady standard of life should be a **fundamental human right**, and no one should have to pay more just to meet their basic needs. Support SB 88 and **stand with the people** of Oregon to guarantee a more equitable future for everyone. I appreciate your time and consideration.

Regards,

Ellie Kim

Salem, Oregon