

Submitter: Amy Carlson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB88

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

I support SB 88 to make sure that advertising, legal, and lobbyist fees come out of company profits, not ratepayer pockets.

This bill is important because communities are already struggling with significant rate increases in recent years years, high cost of goods and services, and wages that have not kept up with cost increases, as well as economic uncertainty.

It is unfair for a for-profit, corporate utility to charge customers for their lobbyists, lawyers, advertising, and membership fees to big industry associations. For-profit utilities need to be responsible for these expenses which can add up to millions of dollars of “junk” on our utility bills every year. In particular, I am not interested in supporting these utilities’ corporate interests, like suing Oregon to overturn our climate protection laws or marketing to improve the brand name of a monopoly utility.

The combination of record or high profits and several years of major rate increases by these companies, makes this an easy choice.

I urge you to support SB 88 to cut unnecessary charges from our utility bills, deliver relief for working families and small businesses, and help our communities stay more resilient.

Thank you for your consideration.

Amy Carlson