

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

My name is Emily Wahl, and I live in Portland. I am writing in support of SB 88 to make sure that advertising, legal and lobbyist fees come out of company profits, not rate payer pockets.

I support SB 88 because:

My husband and I finally managed to buy our own home in 2018, after living in Portland as renters for almost twenty years. We were excited to be able to make more choices about our energy use. We have invested money in making our home more energy efficient and installed solar panels that can generate about half of our typical electricity use over the course of the year. Last November, faced with replacing our pre-existing gas furnace as our backup heat source to our heat pump, we decide to spend more money to switch to an electric air handler, in order to stop burning fossil fuels in our home. This was an expensive choice, as we also had to upgrade our electric panels to accommodate the further electrification of our home. We decided it was worth the expense, to do our part to reduce our climate changing emissions more. We also pay extra each month to support PGE's investments into green energy through the Green Future Block and Habitat Support. Last month, our bill was nearly \$300 to heat our 1200 sq. ft. home.

So, it is galling to learn that we are also being charged for the cost of their lobbyists, lawyers, advertising, and membership fees to big industry associations. In fact, it is galling that our only choice of an electricity provider is a for-profit company, which has been given a monopoly over us. Electricity is a public good. It should be a public service. We are doing our part and spending our money to try to reduce the catastrophic threat of climate change. Why should shareholders profit off of our need for light, warmth, hot water, the ability to cook our food, and power our electric vehicle? Why should they charge us to lobby you to keep them making profits off of our basic needs? And without even facing any competition in the market? We shouldn't. The least the legislature can do is to stop them from passing these costs on to us.

Other people are far worse off than we are. Vulnerable children face being deprived of their basic needs because profits have been put over people far too much for far too long in this country. The shareholders of PGE can learn to live on a little less so that children don't have to go cold. Please put people over profits and support this tiny measure towards the public good.

Thank you in advance for your support of SB 88.

Sincerely, Emily Wahl
Portland, Oregon