

TO: Senate Committee on Energy and Environment  
RE: Support of SB 88 Get the Junk Out of Rates Bill  
DATE: 03/02/25

Dear Chair Sollman, Vice Chair Brock Smith, and members of the Energy and Environment Committee,

My name is Maya Ryley, and I live in Eugene when I'm not in Salem attending Willamette University where I'm working towards a degree in Sociology and English. From a young age, I was taught about fairness. Now at the time that meant making sure everyone had a turn on the swing, but, this idea has grown with me and into the very fabric of the community we live in. This is why I support **SB 88** because it creates transparency and fairness when it comes to paying for utilities.

Right now, Oregon's largest for-profit utilities have raised customers' bills by 50% in the last four years, and these raises aren't attached to a heightened use in utilities. Instead, utility companies are using ratepayers' money for advertising, legal, and lobbyist fees. This means much like the schoolyard bully who hogs the swing all recess, utility companies aren't playing fair and leaving Oregonians with the burden of increased utility bills.

These unjustifiable acts not only lead to higher energy costs but force Oregon backwards to become less resilient to climate crises, such as heat waves and ice storms. This means utility companies are forcing ratepayers to promote their for-profit corporate interests and putting me, you, our families, and the state at a greater risk to the threats of climate crises.

No one wants to be the tattletale who goes to the teacher to complain, however, we all want to be the one brave kid who stands up for the bully and makes the situation fair again. This is your opportunity to confront the bully and protect as well as alleviate Oregonians by making sure their hard-earned income goes to necessities instead of funding unnecessary utility company rates that don't go to their utilities.

This can be accomplished through **SB 88**. You can make the situation fair. You can make the entire community benefit from making sure they're money is streamlined into only paying for their utilities and not being abused. You can make Oregon get back on track to being resilient and protected from climate crises. As someone who doesn't have the power to stand up to the bully, I implore you to support **SB 88** and allow for fairness and transparency to be reintegrated back as a value in this community.

Sincerely,  
-Maya Ryley