

Submitter: Diana Pace

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB88

For-profit monopoly utilities need to tighten their belts like the rest of us. Things like expensive lawyers and lobbyists, advertising, and industry association fees should come out of company profits and not our pockets. These expenses can add up to millions of dollars of “junk” on our utility bills every year. More than a dozen states are looking at similar legislation this year. Colorado, Maine, and Connecticut have already passed laws to get the junk, like corporate lobbyist fees, out of customers’ rates. Cutting unnecessary charges from our utility bills is an easy way for state leaders to deliver relief to working families and small businesses.

Oregon’s largest for-profit utilities have raised customers’ bills by about 50% in four years. Oregonians are left shouldering the burden of climbing fossil fuel prices, growing costs of wildfire damages, and handouts to large industrial consumers. We must act in the short term to get utility rate hikes under control. SB 88 will make sure that advertising, legal and lobbyist fees come out of company profits, not ratepayer pockets.