

TO: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment
RE: Support of SB 88
DATE: February 3, 2025

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

My name is Miranda Jones, and I live in Salem, Oregon. I am writing because it was only recently brought to my attention that utility companies' advertising, legal, and lobbyist fees are being tacked onto customers' energy bills. I am in support of SB 88 because I believe these costs, which are completely unrelated to a consumer's energy consumption, should come out of company profits.

Citizens in Oregon are facing increasing energy costs. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, the average price of electricity in Oregon for residential consumers increased by 30% between 2020 and 2024. Energy bills are expensive, and they are only going to get more expensive as climate change causes more extreme heat and weather events.

The issue of utility companies passing on their legal, advertising, and lobbyist fees to consumers goes well beyond expense; this practice is also exploitative and deceptive. I personally believed that energy bills were calculated strictly based on energy usage as there is no indication that unrelated fees are also included. The fact that companies do not disclose the nature of these additional fees means that consumers may be paying to help companies out of lawsuits involving their impact on the environment and climate, or advertising fees related to the promotion of fossil fuels.

Using consumers to try and escape responsibility for the climate crisis, which directly affects the least responsible parties, is simply diabolical.

I urge you to support SB 88 to decrease utility prices and increase accountability in our electric and gas bills.

Sincerely,
Miranda Jones