

The League of Women Voters of Oregon, established in 1920, is a grassroots nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. We envision informed Oregonians participating in a fully accessible, responsive, and transparent government to achieve the common good. LWVOR Legislative Action is based on advocacy positions formed through studies and member consensus. The League never supports or opposes any candidate or political party.

March 2, 2025

To: Chair Janeen Sollman, Vice-Chair Senator David Smith,

and Members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment

Re: <u>SB 88</u> – Expenditures nonrecoverable from ratepayers – Support

The League of Women Voters of Oregon supports SB 88 based on the national League position that persons who are unable to work, whose earnings are inadequate, or for whom jobs are not available have the right to an income and/or services sufficient to meet their basic needs.

Our state's Citizens Utility Board says that currently, "In Oregon utility bills are rising rapidly and are unaffordable for many Oregonians. For-profit, monopoly utilities need to tighten their belts like the rest of us. Things like expensive lawyers and lobbyists, advertising, industry association fees, political influence activities, and charitable donations should come out of company profits and not be charged on our bills. These costs are a benefit for corporate interests, not customers. This bill aims to get millions of dollars of 'junk' out of our rates. Every penny counts for customers."

We urge the committee to support SB 88.

Thank you for your time and attention.

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