

Written Testimony of Philip H. Carver, Ph.D.
Co-coordinator of 350 Salem OR

Greetings to Chair Sollman and members and staff of the Committee

350 Salem Oregon supports SB 88. 350 groups are local chapters of 350.org, an international organization dedicated to lessening the environmental impacts of climate change by reducing fossil fuel use and to reducing overall costs to people.

My Ph.D. is in natural resource and utility economics from Johns Hopkins U., 1978. For 37 years I worked for the Oregon Dept. of Energy and the Public Utility Commission.

In the public contest over what to do about climate change, it is entirely unfair to allow utilities to collect money from me (which I have no choice about paying) and use it for lawsuits against my interests and for lobbying or advertising against climate protection laws. Similarly, membership fees should be paid out of corporate profits, not from rates regulated by the Public Utility Commission.

The Governor's priority is affordable housing. Utility costs are part of housing costs. Getting junk fees out of rates should be a part of that. Lowering utility bills is urgent! The most energy burdened households are low-income or rural Oregonians.

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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

