



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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 88. My name is Metzin Rodriguez, and I am Unite Oregon's Climate and Environmental Justice Policy Lead Coordinator. *I support SB 88 to make sure that advertising, legal and lobbyist fees come out of company profits, not rate payer pockets.*

Unite Oregon is led by people of color, immigrants, refugees, rural communities, and people experiencing poverty. We work across the state to build a unified intercultural movement for justice, and we have over 5,000 members. At our annual statewide summit, members voiced **urgent concerns** about **skyrocketing utility bills** and the lack of clear information why these rate increases are happening.

Because our goal is to address systemic issues, energy affordability is central to our mission, and so we are here today to support SB 88. Our communities are hit the hardest by rising utility costs, at the same time they are recovering from wildfires and paying more than ever for gas. We've seen this firsthand in the Rogue Valley, where communities affected by the 2020 Almeda Fire are **still** struggling to rebuild. Every Oregonian deserves transparent, accessible information about their utility bills. Most importantly, SB 88 makes sure lavish charges like lawyers and lobbyists come from company profits, not our communities.

SB 88 will help by:

- **Cutting unnecessary charges from our utility bills and**
- **Making sure that advertising, legal and lobbyist fees come out of company profits, not rate-payer pockets**

For-profit companies, not just consumers, should shoulder economic challenges. Utility corporations must focus on sustainable practices that evolve over time and genuinely serve Oregonians, instead of shifting their costs onto the people they're meant to support.

*Sincerely,  
Metzin Rodriguez  
Unite Oregon*