



Service Employees
International Union
Local 503

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To: Senate Committee on Energy and Environment

From: Mike Powers, SEIU Local 503

RE: Support for SB 88

Date: March 3, 2025

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

My name is Mike Powers, and I represent SEIU Local 503. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 88.

Our Union represents over 72,000 workers across Oregon in a wide range of sectors, including forest management, food safety inspections, elder and youth care, road maintenance and safety, river and stream protection, and much more. I am here today to express our strong support for SB 88, which aims to protect Oregonians from being charged for costs unrelated to the actual delivery of energy.

Currently, energy companies can pass on to customers the costs of advertising, political influence, litigation, and certain unrelated compensation. SB 88 would put an end to these practices. It also limits the amount of litigation costs that can be recovered, mandates annual reports detailing non-recoverable costs, and establishes civil penalties for violations.

Our Union supports this legislation because it ensures that:

- Utility companies cannot impose hidden fees, such as advertising costs, legal fees, or lobbying expenses, on customer bills.
- Utility bills will clearly state the charges customers are paying for, ensuring greater transparency.
- Utility companies will not use customer funds to finance lawsuits against climate protection and transition efforts that our members strongly support.
- Oregon continues to make strides toward reducing housing costs, which is a key priority for our hardworking members.

For these reasons, and for the many others highlighted in testimony submitted on this legislation, we strongly urge your support for SB 88.

Thank you for your time and consideration.