

Submitter: Abby Knipp

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB88

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

My name is Abby Knipp, and I live in North Bend, OR and I am writing because I feel strongly about this bill and want to urge you to support SB 88! It impacts the lives of thousands of rural Oregonians like myself. I support SB 88 to make sure that advertising, legal, and lobbyist fees come out of company profits, not ratepayer pockets.

I support SB 88 because my own energy bill is threateningly high. The cost of my energy bill has negatively impacted my well-being both emotionally and economically. It causes huge stress on mine and my loved ones lives. Why should I be paying into my energy company's lobbyists, lawyers, advertising and membership fees!? Energy is human need, not a want. Like many rural Oregonians, I live paycheck to paycheck. Instead of paying my energy company's private fees, I could be using those funds to support my local economy. Coos County needs more local thriving economies and this is one way that you can support people buying locally, boosting the local economy.

Oregon's largest for-profit utilities have raised customers' bills by about 50% in four years. Oregonians are left shouldering the burden of climbing fossil fuel prices, growing costs of wildfire damages, and handouts to large industrial consumers. We must act in the short term to get utility rate hikes under control. SB 88 will make sure that advertising, legal and lobbyist fees come out of company profits, not ratepayer pockets.

More than a dozen states are looking at similar legislation this year. 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.

I urge you to support SB 88.

Sincerely,  
Abby Knipp  
North Bend, Oregon