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## Testimony in Support of SB 88

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

My name is Anahi Segovia Rodriguez, and I am the Energy Justice Coordinator at Verde. Over the past two years, I have been actively engaged in multiple utility rate cases, working closely with community members who are directly impacted by rising energy costs. Through this work, I hear firsthand how higher utility bills place an increasing strain on families, particularly during the winter months when heating is essential. Many households are already making tough financial decisions, and when rates continue to increase year after year, it becomes even harder for people to keep up.

SB 88 is an important step toward ensuring fairer and more transparent utility bills for Oregonians. Right now, for-profit utility companies pass millions of dollars in corporate expenses onto customers, covering things like advertising, lobbying, and legal fees—costs that do not contribute to keeping homes warm or lights on. These types of expenses should come from company profits, not ratepayer pockets. Other states, including Colorado, Maine, and Connecticut, have already taken action to address this issue, and Oregon should do the same.

This bill doesn't prevent utilities from operating their businesses—it simply ensures that customers aren't paying for expenses that don't benefit them. Energy bills should reflect the actual cost of service, not unnecessary overhead. With utility rates in Oregon increasing by nearly 50% over the last four years, SB 88 offers a practical way to provide relief for families and small businesses while promoting more responsible utility spending.

I appreciate your time and consideration, and I encourage you to support SB 88 to ensure that Oregon ratepayers are treated fairly. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Anahi Segovia Rodriguez  
Energy Justice Coordinator  
Verde