



THE BUREAU OF
**PLANNING &
SUSTAINABILITY**

March 3, 2025

Senate Committee on Energy and Environment

900 Court St. NE

Salem, Oregon 97301

Subject: Support for Senate Bill 88

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

The City of Portland supports Senate Bill 88, that restricts and limits the broad range of expenses that electric and gas companies recover from rate payers today.

Energy rates have increased dramatically in recent years, and today too many Portlanders are struggling to pay their energy bills. According to Oregon Department of Energy, 27% of households in Multnomah County are energy burdened, spending more than 6% of household income on energy costs. In 2024, the impact of rising utility costs became evident, as the number of utility disconnections due to nonpayment hit record highs.

Utility costs for lawyers and lobbyists, political influence activities, advertising, and industry association fees should not be paid by families and small businesses. The “travel, lodging, entertainment or food and beverage” of utility executives should *never* contribute to power shutoffs that put Oregonians lives and livelihood at risk. These costs are a benefit for corporate interests and are not essential to provide gas or electric service for Oregonians.



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At a time when affordability looms large over our communities, energy consumers deserve transparent and fair energy rates. SB 88 increases transparency and offers some relief in energy bills by requiring gas and electric companies to report on their expenses and empowers the Oregon Public Utility Commission to impose civil penalties for noncompliance.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. We appreciate your consideration of these comments and urge you to support Senate Bill 88, to get the “junk out of rates.”

Sincerely,

Paul Hawkins

Paul Hawkins

Buildings and Energy Program Manager
City of Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability

