



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

As an organization which advocates for climate justice and public health, we urge your support for SB 88. Passing SB 88 is a step Oregon's government can take to reduce the energy burden on Oregonians. High utility bills can turn deadly when Oregonians can't afford to adequately heat or cool their homes during extreme weather or run air filters during severe wildfire events (or if they live close to a traffic corridor with significant pollution).

Oregon should not allow utilities to charge ratepayers (i.e. cause an increase in bill amounts) for spending which does not benefit the public: advertising, lobbyists, industry association fees, or litigation. These expenses currently add up to millions of dollars of "junk" on our utility bills every year. SB 88 simply clarifies that if utilities decide to incur those costs, they will come out of company profits, not customer pockets. While it makes sense for customers to pay for utility services, it doesn't make sense for us to pay for the utility's public image, especially since we have little to no choice in which utility company we use.

Passing SB 88 to cut unnecessary charges from our utility bills is a common sense way for state leaders to support the health and resilience of constituents across Oregon, especially as we face unprecedented weather events due to climate change.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment,
Helena Birecki
Interim Chair, Climate Reality Project Portland Chapter

About the Climate Reality Project Portland Chapter

The Climate Reality Project (CRP) Portland Chapter is a local, volunteer-led chapter of The Climate Reality Project, an international nonprofit of 5 million members led by climate leader and former US Vice President Al Gore, whose mission is to catalyze global solutions to the climate crisis. Our legislative committee bases its advocacy on CRP's 5 pillars: a just transition to clean energy, zero carbon transportation, climate justice and public health, green communities, and a fair, representative democracy. climaterealitypdx.com/, www.climaterealityproject.org