



350PDX  
3625 N. Mississippi Avenue  
Portland, OR 97227  
350pdx.org

March 4, 2025

Dear Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Brock Smith, and Members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment,

350PDX supports SB 88.

For over a decade, [350PDX](#) has been working to build a climate justice movement in the greater Portland metro area. We have hundreds of active volunteers with a base of thousands, all who support our work to fight for just solutions to the climate crisis. **On behalf of our organization, I am writing to express our support for SB 88, which would prohibit an electric or gas company using ratepayer funds to cover expenses associated with advertising or political influence activities.**

In just four years, Oregon's largest for-profit utilities have raised customers' bills by nearly 50%. This is unacceptable. Just this last year in 2024, Portland General Electric (PGE) made \$313 million in *profits*, a record high for the company. Meanwhile, Oregonians across the state are suffering from rising utility rates.

When high energy bills force Oregonians to choose between turning their heat on in the winter or paying their rent, that's not resilience. High energy costs make us less resilient, and in climate disasters like heat waves and winter storms, these costs can be deadly. It's time utility companies stop inserting unnecessary costs onto our already high utility bills, and for legislators to protect the people of Oregon from corporate greed.

It makes sense to pay for the heat or power we use and for utilities to invest in clean energy. But Oregonians should not be paying for things that promote the for-profit, corporate utility's interests, like suing Oregon to overturn our climate protection laws or marketing to improve the brand name of a monopoly utility. **SB 88 is about fairness. Not only will this bill lower energy prices for consumers, but it requires more transparency from energy companies.**

This year, more than a dozen states are looking at legislation similar to SB 88. Colorado, Maine, and Connecticut have already passed laws to get the junk, like corporate lobbyist fees, out of customers' rates. Cutting these unnecessary charges from our utility bills is an easy way for state leaders to deliver relief to working families and small businesses.

We kindly urge you to pass SB 88. Please take this opportunity to work to build resiliency in our communities and choose Oregonians safety and livelihood over corporate profit.

Thank you,

Emma Niemela,  
Climate Policy Assistant, 350PDX

Building the climate justice movement.