

Submitter: Linda Kelley

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB88

Good morning members of the Committee, my name is Linda Kelley and I live in Eugene, thank you for the opportunity to submit comment. I strongly support SB 88. Energy costs keep rising. We put in a ducted heat pump last year and are very happy with it. However, because energy costs keep going up, we are not seeing as much savings as I'd hoped for. My husband has significant health challenges and care for his condition will at some point become very expensive. We are doing what we can to lower our costs in preparation for that time, however rates keep rising.

Utility companies must stop tacking unnecessary, 'junk costs' onto our already high bills. For profit utilities are businesses and as such, expenses like legal advice, lobbying, advertising and other shareholder perks must be absorbed as a cost of doing business by the companies. Net profits are what shareholders should normally receive. These expenses can add up to millions of dollars on our utility bills every year. You as legislators are in a position to follow more than twelve other states working on similar legislation, with Colorado, Maine and Connecticut already having already passed this type of legislation. A rise of up to 50% in the last 4 years is not right. Portland Electric made \$313 million in profits. Ratepayers with PGE have most likely paid for suing Oregon to overturn our Climate Protection Plan. Really?

This is unacceptable to anyone with a conscience. Further, These "junk fees" punish lower income families the most. We have a huge challenge with people living on the street and in their vehicles in this state. High energy bills definitely are contributing to this.

Please make sure that advertising, legal and lobbyist fees come out of company profits, not ratepayer pockets and pass SB 88.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comment on this important bill.