

Submitter: Brian von Dedenroth

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB88

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

My name is [First and Last Name], and I live in [City]. I am writing in support of SB 88 to make sure that advertising, legal and lobbyist fees come out of company profits, not rate payer pockets.

I support SB 88 because:

I have personally seen electricity, natural gas, water and sewage noticeably and shockingly increase over the past several years. My kids love to sit in front of the floor heater and gas fireplace when getting ready for school in the winter and we need to turn on the AC in the afternoon and evening during Oregon's increasingly hot summers. While we don't mind paying for what we use the costs have become exorbitant.

I had no idea until recently that for-profit, corporate utilities are allowed to pass on the costs of lobbyists, lawyers, advertising, and membership fees to customers. It seems unethical and unconscionable. This isn't the cost of generating the utilities we need for comfort and survival during ice storms and heat waves but rather their cost that should come out of company profits, not our pockets. These expenses can add up to millions of dollars of "junk" in our utility bills every year.

Oregon's largest for-profit utilities have raised customers' bills by about 50% in four years. At the same time, Oregonians are left shouldering the burden of climbing fossil fuel prices, growing costs of wildfire damages and handouts to large industrial consumers. We must take action to get utility rate hikes under control. SB 88 will make sure that advertising, legal and lobbyist fees come out of company profits, not customer pockets.

Thank you in advance for your support of SB 88.