



March 3, 2025

Oregon State Legislature
Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for Senate Bill, relating to expenditures nonrecoverable from ratepayers

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

On behalf of the more than 55,000 members and supporters of the Sierra Club Oregon, we write in support of Senate Bill 88 which aims to make sure that advertising, legal, and lobbyist fees come out of company profits, not ratepayer pockets.

High energy costs make us less resilient and can even turn deadly in climate disasters like heat waves and arctic storms. It's time utility companies stop tacking unnecessary, 'junk costs' onto our already high utility bills. For-profit monopoly utilities need to tighten their belts like the rest of us. Things like expensive lawyers and lobbyists, advertising, and industry association fees should come out of company profits and not our pockets. These expenses can add up to millions of dollars of "junk" on our utility bills every year.

More than a dozen states are looking at similar legislation this year while a few others have already passed laws to get the junk out of rates. Cutting unnecessary charges from our utility bills is an easy way for Oregon to deliver relief to working families and small businesses. Oregon's largest for-profit utilities have raised customers' bills by about 50% in four years. Oregonians are left shouldering the burden of climbing fossil fuel prices, growing costs of wildfire damages, and handouts to large industrial consumers. We must act in the short term to get utility rate hikes under control. SB 88 will make sure that advertising, legal and lobbyist fees come out of company profits, not ratepayer pockets. It is unacceptable for utility companies to charge their customers for things like marketing, lobbying, and legal expenses.

We urge you to support SB 88.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Bowes, Policy Strategist

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Emily Bowes". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

1821 SE Ankeny Street · Portland, OR 97214
503-238-0442
emily.bowes@sierraclub.org
www.oregonsierraclub.org
@ORSierraClub on Facebook, Instagram, and X/Twitter