

# OREGON PSR

PHYSICIANS FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

March 4, 2025

To: Senate Committee on Energy and Environment

Subject: Support SB 88

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

Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility (Oregon PSR) is an organization of over 2,000 health professionals and public health advocates working to address the gravest threats to human health and survival. As the climate crisis worsens, people are increasingly dependent on energy to survive extreme weather events. Unfortunately, Oregon's largest for-profit utilities have raised customers' bills by about 50% in four years, straining the household budgets of Oregonians, especially those who are energy-burdened. For this reason, Oregon PSR is submitting testimony in support of SB 88. This bill would ensure that advertising, legal, and lobbyist fees come out of company profits, not ratepayer pockets.

High energy bills force Oregonians to choose between turning their heat on in the winter or paying their rent. This can have detrimental impacts to human health, especially during climate disasters like heat waves and arctic storms. Reducing or forgoing basic necessities like food and medicine to pay your energy bill is not resilience. It is time utility companies stop adding unnecessary costs onto already high utility bills. Oregon PSR strongly urges you to support SB 88.

Sincerely,



Samantha Hernandez

*Healthy Climate Program Director*

