

Submitter: Celeste Wolf  
On Behalf Of: Myself  
Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB88

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:

For customers inflation is high, the United States has started a tariff war, and corporations/for-profits will use this to charge customers more to line their already overflowing profits.

For-profit and corporate utilities have shown they don't care about Oregonians, they didn't de-energize power lines and communities are still recovering from the fires caused by these corporate profiteers. They want Oregonians to pay for their screw ups and for Covid recovery relief their customers received during the pandemic.

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 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.

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.