

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

My name is Madeleine Gefke, and I live in Portland. 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 high energy bills discourage me from living comfortably in the rented duplex I share with two other housemates. We are all young adults early in our careers living on hourly wages, so in an attempt to minimize our energy bills and start saving for our futures, we keep our heat off in the winter and try to bundle up in rooms that stay at 40 degrees. I am not living like this to support a for-profit, corporate utility's lobbyists, lawyers, advertising, and membership fees to big industry associations. Making us pay for these unnecessary "junk" costs disguised in our high utility bills is unfair and unjust, disproportionately affecting our most vulnerable communities.

I want to witness a strong, resilient future for all Oregonians. However, 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. 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.

Sincerely,

Madeleine Gefke
Portland, Oregon