

**Testimony Submitted by
Angela Donley, Policy Analyst
Oregon Consumer Justice
To the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment**

March 4, 2025

Regarding: Support for SB 88

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

For the record, my name is Angela Donley. I appreciate the opportunity to testify today in support of SB 88 on behalf of Oregon Consumer Justice.

Oregon Consumer Justice (OCJ) envisions a vibrant future where all Oregonians live with dignity and abundance and experience health, joy, and economic opportunity. We work collaboratively across policy and advocacy, community engagement, and the law, to realize a more just and equitable Oregon where people come first. For too long, flawed systems and policies have stood in the way of this reality, with communities of color most often experiencing significant harm. Informed by consumer insights, OCJ works to make financial and business transactions reliably safe and supports Oregonians in knowing and exercising their consumer rights.

Consumers have the right to fair and affordable utility rates and full transparency about the costs they are expected to pay.

As utility rates continue to rise, our most impacted communities—older adults, people living with disabilities, and low-income households—are struggling to keep up with payments and are facing record-high disconnections of these essential services. OCJ believes people need to come first. Oregonians should not be forced to bear consecutive rate hikes or fear for their own or their family's safety during cold, hot, or other extreme weather.

Senate Bill 88 will safeguard consumers by preventing power companies from using consumer dollars for advertising, legal fees, and lobbyist expenses. Oregonians pay for essential services with the expectation that their funds will be directed toward maintaining and improving infrastructure, ensuring reliability, and keeping their service costs as low as possible. When ratepayer money is spent on non-essential services, it reduces transparency and accountability and erodes consumer trust.

Thank you for your consideration and your service in building the future that Oregonians deserve.