



March 3, 2025

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

The undersigned organizations representing labor, builders, public health, business, environmental justice, faith communities, and climate experts from across Oregon enthusiastically urge your support on action to address **energy affordability**.

As Oregonians struggle with skyrocketing utility bills, Oregon's largest utilities are spiking our rates and passing unnecessary costs on to us. 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 add up to millions of dollars of “junk” on our utility bills every year.

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.

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.**

More than a dozen states are looking at legislation similar to SB 88, this year. Colorado, Maine, and Connecticut have already passed laws to get the junk, like corporate lobbyist fees, out of customers’ rates. It makes sense to pay for investments into the heat or power we use, for infrastructure, efficiency and service improvements. It doesn't make sense for customers to be paying for the public image of our utility. Cutting unnecessary charges from our utility bills is an easy way for state leaders to deliver relief to working families and small businesses.

For all these reasons, we respectfully urge your support for SB 88.

Sincerely,

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Climate Solutions

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Community Energy Project

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