

Submitter: Kate Mullican

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB88

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

My name is Kate M., and I live in Portland, OR and I am writing because I am a concerned friend, neighbor and childcare provider who is watching hard working, sincere people struggling to pay for basic needs for their families. As I childcare provider I support SB 88 to make sure that advertising, legal, and lobbyist fees come out of company profits, not ratepayer pockets. Every bit helps and I see this when parents fail to pay their childcare provider and then switch to new childcare centers thus interrupting children's continuation of care.

I support SB 88 because:

Oregon's largest for-profit utilities have raised customers' bills by about 50% in four years. Oregonians are left shouldering the burden of climbing fossil fuel prices, growing costs of wildfire damages, and handouts to large industrial consumers. We must act in the short term to get utility rate hikes under control. SB 88 will make sure that advertising, legal and lobbyist fees come out of company profits, not ratepayer pockets. Cutting unnecessary charges from our utility bills is an easy way for state leaders to deliver relief to working families and small businesses.

Portland General Electric (PGE) made \$313 million in profits in 2024, a record high for the company and they've raised rates two years in a row. In 2024, NW Natural Gas raked in \$78.9 million in profits. NW Natural Gas raised rates last year, and has asked for another rate increase again this year. It is unacceptable for utility companies to charge their customers for things like marketing, lobbying, and legal expenses.

I urge you to support SB 88 because families are struggling and this is an easy win to get them a little relief.

Sincerely,
Kate M.
Portland, Oregon