

Submitter: Chad Kernutt  
On Behalf Of: WE THE PEOPLE  
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB926

Dear Lawmakers,

My name is Chad Kernutt, I have a single income family of 5 and am an Albany resident and customer of Pacific Power. I have seen my residential electricity rates for my home double being more than 50% higher than they were just 5 years ago. My electric bill for January of this year was \$280. Our electricity bill was \$140 in January of 2020 and we used less electricity in January of 2025 than we did in January of 2020. Make that make sense to me. These power companies are out of control and are crippling us customers knowing that they hold a monopoly on our power and the ability to keep our lights and heat on and that we have nowhere else to go when they are all acting in concert with the same corruption and theft from we the consumers in their business practices. The state's public utilities commission, which is a 3 person governor appointed group charged with regulating the rates of privately owned utilities in Oregon, approved a 10% increase in residential electricity rates for customers of Pacific Power in December that took effect on January 1st, after approving a 12.9% increase that took effect in January of 2024. This brought the overall rates for us Pacific Power residential customers to over 50% since 2020 which was more than twice the rate of inflation during that five year time period. We Oregonians have suffered through 4 years of out of control inflation and grocery bill costs where we have struggled to even feed our families and clothe them adequately and give them the same luxuries of life that we used to before 2020. The last thing we need is for our power companies to be partaking in theft of our paychecks out of greed to stuff their coffers and pay the bill for the damages and destruction that their own power lines and incompetence has caused. The lower and middle class families have suffered a lot since 2020 and we are sick and tired of being forced into a position by the power companies of where we have to choose between keeping the lights on and our homes adequately heated or to adequately feed and clothe and provide for our children. This is an outrage and a scandal that Oregon governors and their public utilities commission group has allowed to happen and be unleashed on us consumers. This scandalous behavior and theft by the power companies must be reigned in so they can no longer break the backs and the bank accounts of us consumers who have nowhere else to go in terms of power supply. Please vote YES on SB-926 and stop the corporate greed. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Chad Kernutt  
Albany, Oregon  
IN GOD WE TRUST