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On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB88

Testimony in Support of the Regulation Prohibiting Utility Companies from Recovering Certain Costs from Ratepayers

Monique E. Torres

Concerned Citizen

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Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Monique E. Torres, and I am here as a concerned citizen to express my strong support for this critical regulation that protects consumers from bearing unnecessary costs imposed by electric and gas companies.

This regulation ensures that utility companies cannot pass along the costs of advertising, political influence activities, litigation, penalties, and certain executive compensation to ratepayers—costs that have nothing to do with delivering essential services. These expenses should be the responsibility of the companies themselves, not the customers who rely on them for affordable and reliable energy.

Why This Regulation Is Necessary:

Protecting Consumers from Unjust Rate Increases

Utility services are essential, and customers should not be forced to pay higher rates to cover corporate expenses unrelated to energy delivery. This regulation ensures that rates reflect the actual cost of providing service, not the cost of political lobbying or advertising.

Preventing the Misuse of Customer Payments

Advertising and political influence activities serve corporate interests, not the interests of ratepayers. Customers should not be required to fund efforts that may work against their own needs, such as campaigns opposing renewable energy policies or rate regulations.

Holding Utilities Accountable for Their Own Legal and Regulatory Violations

Companies should be responsible for their own fines, penalties, and legal battles—not the customers they serve. Shifting these costs onto ratepayers would remove incentives for utilities to operate responsibly and in compliance with regulations.

Ensuring Fair and Just Compensation Practices

While competitive compensation is important, ratepayers should not be footing the bill for excessive executive salaries, bonuses, or incentives that do not directly improve service quality or affordability.

This regulation represents a necessary safeguard against corporate overreach and ensures that utility companies remain accountable for their own discretionary expenses. It is a fundamental consumer protection measure that prevents unfair financial burdens on working families, seniors, and businesses that depend on fair and reasonable energy rates.

I urge the committee to uphold this regulation and continue prioritizing consumer interests over corporate profits. Thank you for your time and consideration. I am happy to answer any questions.

Monique E. Torres
Concerned Citizen