

Submitter: Lonnette Kelly

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 Lonnette Kelly, residing in Portland, Oregon. I am reaching out as both a community worker and a concerned resident, expressing my opposition to the predatory nature of junk add-ons. I advocate for SB 88, which aims to ensure that advertising, legal, and lobbying expenses are covered by company profits rather than being passed on to ratepayers.

As a Youth Advocate for a local non-profit, I assist students and their families in developing self-advocacy skills, helping them transform challenges into resilience. However, the burden of high energy bills often forces families to make impossible choices, undermining their ability to be resilient. The escalating energy costs not only diminish resilience but can also pose serious risks during climate-related disasters. It is imperative that utility companies cease imposing unnecessary charges on our already inflated utility bills. The profits generated by these companies are staggering; for instance, Portland General Electric (PGE) reported \$313 million in profits in 2024 alone. It is unacceptable for utility companies to impose costs for marketing, lobbying, and legal fees while justifying them as necessary for infrastructure updates. Such expenses should be covered by profits, as responsible business practices dictate that companies reinvest in their operations. The current model, which prioritizes profit margins over customer welfare, is fundamentally flawed. These monopolistic practices must be challenged, as consumers should have the freedom to choose alternative providers if they are dissatisfied with service or pricing. Unfortunately, PGE has increased its rates for two consecutive years, leaving many customers, including myself and my clients, with no viable alternatives.

Sincerely,
Lonnette Kelly
Portland, Oregon