



March 3, 2025

Senate Committee on Energy and Environment  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court St. NE, Salem Oregon 97301

Re: Support for SB 88

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

Climate Solutions is a regional non-profit working to accelerate clean energy solutions to the climate crisis.

**We support SB 88 as one of the important tools that the legislature can use this year to protect utility customers and support energy affordability.**

Many of us are experiencing the challenge of energy affordability. Investor Owned Utilities (IOUs) which provide energy to most Oregonians have raised rates by 50% over the last couple of years. The legislature is rising to meet this challenge this year with a suite of energy affordability solutions. Oregonians need the legislature to reach for every tool in the toolbox to address rising costs. SB 88 is just one of those tools, and is a compliment to the other efforts being undertaken by the legislature this year, including the FAIR Act, POWER Act and One Stop Shop 2.0.

SB 88 is a simple bill that will help address a part of the problem of rising costs, and improve consumer fairness. The bill supports transparency from our utilities and creates bright line rules for expenses like lobbying, advertising, marketing and trade associations. These expenses should all be charged to shareholders, not ratepayers.

The committee has heard from customer advocates, that despite existing policies, these expenses can make their way into customer bills if they are not found amongst the hundreds of pages of testimony and information exchanged in rate cases. SB 88 will simplify this process and ensure that these expenses are disclosed by utilities, and properly charged to their profits.

Customers are struggling with rising costs across the board, from housing to groceries. With this context it is especially important that customers pay for the core services of their utility, investments into the heat or power we use, infrastructure, efficiency and service improvements. **It doesn't make sense for customers to be paying for the public image of their utilities, which benefits shareholders more than ratepayers.**

Sincerely,

Claire Pihoda  
*Buildings Policy Manager*  
*Climate Solutions*