

**Testimony Submitted by
Angela Donley, Policy Analyst
Oregon Consumer Justice
To the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment**

March 12, 2025

Regarding: Support for SB 688-2

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

For the record, my name is Angela Donley. I appreciate the opportunity to testify today on behalf of Oregon Consumer Justice in support of SB 688-2.

Oregon Consumer Justice (OCJ) envisions a vibrant future where all Oregonians live with dignity and abundance and experience health, joy, and economic opportunity. We work collaboratively across policy and advocacy, community engagement, and the law, to realize a more just and equitable Oregon where people come first. For too long, flawed systems and policies have stood in the way of this reality, with communities of color most often experiencing significant harm. Informed by consumer insights, OCJ works to make financial and business transactions reliably safe and supports Oregonians in knowing and exercising their consumer rights.

Consumers have the right to fair and affordable utility rates and full transparency about the costs they are expected to pay.

As utility rates continue to rise, our most impacted communities—older adults, people living with disabilities, and low-income households—are struggling to keep up with payments and are facing record-high disconnections of these essential services. OCJ believes people need to come first. Oregonians should not be forced to bear consecutive rate hikes or fear for their own or their family's safety during cold, hot, or other extreme weather.

Oregon's Public Utility Commission's (PUC) current—and outdated—cost of service regulatory model incentivizes utility companies to continually invest in infrastructure, consequently resulting in regular rate increases to ratepayers, rather than investing in service provision and public benefits. Portland General Electric's (PGE) most recent rate hikes drove its 2024 profits to a record \$313 million. In this same year, PGE had unprecedented disconnection rates.¹

Senate Bill 688 is a critical step forward. It gives the Oregon Public Utility Commission the flexibility to explore and implement the most effective model for Oregon consumers, ensuring that utilities prioritize the public's interests over profits.

This new approach is urgently needed to prioritize consumers and ensure that utility companies invest in the people and communities they serve.

Thank you for your consideration and your service in building the future that Oregonians deserve.

¹ Portland Business Journal. [Portland General Electric reports big profit jump in 2024](#). February 14, 2025