



# The Climate Reality Project<sup>®</sup>

## PORTLAND CHAPTER

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

Climate Reality Project Portland Chapter is an organization that advocates for a just transition to clean energy, climate justice, and public health and recognizes the need for resiliency in the face of extreme weather and other challenges to our power supply. We strongly support SB 688.

The Oregon Public Utility Commission's (OPUC's) current "cost of service" regulation is outdated and ill-suited for the current and future challenges of the electric power industry. SB 688 calls for the development and use of performance-based regulation focused on the metrics that are of the most importance for Oregonians. Utilities currently don't profit from maintenance, efficiency improvements, demand response, or the expansion of rooftop solar generation, programs that are clearly in the public interest. Instead there are incentives to spend more money on capital investments since a utility's rate of return is tied directly to the level of its infrastructure investment. Performance-based regulation is expected to reduce utilities' (and therefore ratepayers') costs and greenhouse gas emissions while increasing reliability and resilience.

Rate payers are already struggling with increasing energy costs, and proper maintenance activities are becoming more and more important as climate change leads to extreme weather and increased risk of wildfires. Distributed power generation and efficiency improvements can improve reliability, resilience, and ratepayer energy bills. Please join us in supporting SB 688 to enable the OPUC to carry out its stated mission to "ensure Oregonians have access to safe, reliable and fairly priced services that advance state policy and promote the public interest."

Sincerely,

Amanda Duncan  
Co-Chair of the Legislative Committee  
Climate Reality Project Portland Chapter

### About The Climate Reality Project Portland Chapter

The Climate Reality Project (CRP) Portland Chapter is a local, volunteer-led chapter of The Climate Reality Project, an international nonprofit of 5 million members led by climate leader and former US Vice President Al Gore, whose mission is to catalyze global solutions to the climate crisis. Our legislative committee bases its advocacy on CRP's 5 pillars: a just transition to clean energy, zero carbon transportation, climate justice and public health, green communities, and a fair, representative democracy. [climaterealitypdx.com/](http://climaterealitypdx.com/), [www.climaterealityproject.org](http://www.climaterealityproject.org)