



March 12, 2025

Oregon State Legislature
Senate Committee On Energy and Environment
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for Senate Bill 688, Relating to performance-based regulation of electric utilities.

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

On behalf of the more than 55,000 members and supporters of the Sierra Club Oregon Chapter, we write in support of Senate Bill 688, relating to performance-based regulation of electric utilities.

Oregon’s utility regulations were designed almost 100 years ago, and prioritized infrastructure expansion and new construction rather than efficiency, reliability, and climate resilience. We need a modern approach today that helps ensure our utilities work toward the betterment of public good. The phrase used to describe these new regulatory frameworks is “performance-based regulation” or PBR. The goal of PBR is to establish stronger financial incentives for utilities to deliver on specific goals, targets or performance measures. In doing so, PBR can be used to align utility priorities with those of their customers and public policy.

Senate Bill 688 gives the Public Utility Commission (PUC) the ability to set performance benchmarks based on:

- Wildfire prevention & accountability
- The transition to clean energy
- Energy efficiency & affordability
- Minimizing power shutoffs

Seventeen other states¹, along with Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico, have already enabled Performance-Based Regulation to hold utilities accountable while ensuring fair costs to consumers and it's time for Oregon to do the same. Please support Senate Bill 688.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Bowes, Policy Strategist

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Emily Bowes". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

¹ “Performance-Based Regulation: Harmonizing Electric Utility Priorities and State Policy” April 7, 2023 www.ncsl.org/energy/performance-based-regulation-harmonizing-electric-utility-priorities-and-state-policy