

Submitter: Brian Ettling

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB688

Chair Sollman and members of the Committee:

My name is Brian Ettling. My wife and I live in an apartment in outer northeast Portland. Over the last 4 years, we saw our electric utility bills rise dramatically from our PGE (Portland General Electric). I watched your committee hearing today about SB 688. I was shocked to hear that PGE made record profits last year and previous years while their CEO made millions in salary and compensations. We really need to reform our public utilities in Oregon so that they align with the many Oregonians who are struggling to make ends meet to make it financially.

This is why I support SB 688 to incorporate Performance-Based Regulation (PBR) for utilities. At least 17 states in the U.S., along with Washington, D.C. and Puerto Rico, have enacted legislation or adopted frameworks for PBRs for their utilities. Now is the time for Oregon to take this step.

I applaud that SB 688 enables PUC to develop benchmarks for expected performance on public interest matters like wildfire avoidance, transitioning to cleaner energy, limits on power shut offs for Oregonians, or energy efficiency - which aren't currently part of the regulatory equation when utilities ask the PUC for price increases.

I appreciate that this bill would modernize the PBR approach for the way utilities are compensated, tying financial incentives to actual performance outcomes such as reliability, affordability, and climate resilience, and this would benefit all Oregonians.

I like how the Performance Based Regulation (SB 688) adds a new tool to the Oregon PUC's toolbox that has proven to be effective at aligning financial incentives to today's needs and goals for:

- Energy efficiency
- Improved reliability and resilience - especially in times of climate disasters
- Minimizing costs for Oregonian ratepayers
- Clean energy transition
- Fire prevention practices and accountability

Therefore, I urge you to pass SB 688 soon.

Thank you for taking my views into consideration.

Brian Ettl