



Portland General Electric

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Senator Janeen Sollman, Chair,
Senate Energy and Environment Committee
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

March 18, 2025

Re: SB 688

Chair Sollman, Vice Chair Brock Smith, and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 688 on behalf of Portland General Electric. PGE is an integrated energy company that generates, transmits and distributes electricity to over 950,000 customers serving an area of 1.9 million Oregonians in seven counties and 51 incorporated cities. We are proud to be an Oregon company and Oregon's largest provider of electricity.

We understand the burdens that utility rate increases can create and remain committed to keeping prices as low as possible for our customers. Our customers count on us every day for the energy they need. It is our privilege to serve them and our obligation to assure they have access to electricity, a vital necessity. As we work to modernize and strengthen the grid, meet society's rapidly growing demand for electricity, advance the clean energy transition, protect the grid against increasing cybersecurity threats, and prepare and protect against unpredictable and extreme weather - including the risk of catastrophic wildfires from all causes - Portland General Electric is focused on affordability for customers. PGE has been, and remains, committed to working with all stakeholders to address this complex challenge and to serve customers well.

We are actively working on bills that address utility bill affordability, including changing the rate setting process to smooth rate impacts for residential customers (HB 3179), cost allocation for new, large data center loads (HB 3546), and critical legislation to address the customer costs driven by wildfire risk (HB 3666 and HB 3917).

While the -1 and -2 amendments make the bill permissive for the OPUC, the criteria outlined for the framework are prescriptive and overlap with a range of policies already in state law. For example, PGE is already required by law to acquire all cost-effective energy efficiency (ORS 757.054), reduce the emissions associated with the power we serve (HB 2021, 2021 session), and have already implemented income-qualified bill discount programs (HB 2475, 2021 session). PGE is already heavily engaged in many of the activities the bill seeks to incent, such as supporting our customers' distributed energy resources and operating a reliable electric system (for which PGE is also subject to federal reliability regulations). Further, the bill directs the PUC to expand community solar, which prioritizes resources that have significant above-market cost impacts on customers. We regretfully oppose the bill.

Thank you for consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Alderson", followed by a horizontal line.

Greg Alderson
Senior Manager, State and Federal Government Affairs