

Submitter: Myra Siegel  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006  
Co-Chairs Lieber and Sanchez, and members of the committee,

I am retired and I have no income source, except for my social security. It is getting more and more difficult to have enough money each month to pay my bills. PGE has raised rates several times lately and is planning on raising them again soon, and so my electric bill amount regularly increases from what it was the year before. I live in a small home, and keep the temperature at 69 degrees. I am careful with my electricity use, and yet the amount I owe keeps increasing. I do have a heat pump. In addition, the sewer and water rates are very high. The base rates are the main problem for how high the bill is every month. I use very little water and do not flush the toilet unless it is necessary to do so. I live alone, and yet I pay the same base rates for sewer and water that a family pays. My monthly water and sewer bill is sometimes higher than my PGE bill!

I am writing to urge you to prioritize protecting our climate progress and continue investing in our climate resilience. We're facing great chaos and uncertainty at the federal level, including attacks on clean air and water, affordable energy, and the integrity of our public lands. If we fail to act and protect our climate progress, it's our frontline communities — people with disabilities, rural families, people of color, and working folks — who will be hurt first and worst. But every Oregonian will feel the impact. Investing in climate resiliency means investing in community resiliency. We all deserve to breathe clean air, drink safe water, and heat and cool our homes without facing outrageous utility bills. That's why I'm asking you to fund programs that will:

1. Ensure Oregonians can heat and cool their homes affordably – without having to choose between keeping the lights on or putting food on the table:

Heat Pumps (Oregon Dept. of Energy programs) - \$30 million for Rental Home Heat Pump and \$15 million for Community Heat Pump Deployment Programs. For many families, a heat pump can be a lifeline. Heat pumps mean lower utility bills when costs are skyrocketing, safety from deadly heat, and being able to afford and stay in housing. These programs help keep people safe, housed, and secure in their communities.

One Stop Shop 2.0 (HB 3081) - Oregonians need more support navigating all the programs to upgrade their homes and buildings through incentives and rebates for efficient heat pumps, improved insulation, sturdier doors and windows, and clean electric cooking. One Stop Shop 2.0 will help families get direct assistance from

someone in their area to make their home projects more affordable.

2. Ensure our communities are prepared for extreme weather events. Heat domes, wildfires, ice storms, drought, and extreme weather are growing more common and more devastating – and taking a serious toll on our health, safety, and economy:

Community Resilience Hubs (ODHS) - \$10 million for community resilience hubs and networks across the state to coordinate and provide access to resources and services for vulnerable populations during disasters.

Thank you for your time and for investing in a resilient climate future for all of Oregon. I appreciate anything you can and will do to stop this almost obscene customer price gouging.

Thank you,

Myra Siegel  
Beaverton