

Submitter: Brad Archuleta
On Behalf Of: Local 290 Plumbers and Steamfitters
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB88
SB 88

Chair Jama
Vice-Chair Bonham
and members of the Senate Committee on Rules

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of Plumber and Steamfitters Local 290. I represent over 5300 members in the piping trades. We have a vested interest in the limits associated with SB 88.

Large businesses, whether regulated or unregulated, find it necessary to engage in lobbying, political influence activities, participate in national trade associations, and advertise. Many also make charitable contributions. These are standard business practices, and their associated expenses are essential parts of the American business system. These fees are essential parts of the participation of large-scale organizations in the American economy. Just as democracy and freedom require fully functioning administrative institutions, being prepared for climate change requires fully functioning natural gas, water, and electric utilities. SB 88 would impose additional burdens on these necessary business activities.

If you restrict the fees, this could disincentivize salary raises. Cost cuts across the board, as energy needs grow, we need to ensure the folks who are building out our energy system are paid well, and the market has the ability to grow and welcome more union jobs. Our concern is that this bill will make it harder for workers working at the utility, or on utility projects to get a fair wage let alone a cost-of-living increase which they deserve. We if SB 88 moves forward, utilities may be forced to cut corners and look for shortcuts.

In closing SB 88 will restrict the efforts on climate change, our ability to combat the rising inflation issues and investments in sustainable developments.