

# OREGON WORKING FAMILIES PARTY

## Testimony in Support of HB 3179

To: House Committee on Rules

From:: Annie Naranjo-Rivera, Oregon Working Families Party

May 7th, 2025

Chair Bowman, Vice-Chairs Drazan and Pham, and Members of the House Committee on Rules,

My name is Annie Naranjo-Rivera, and I serve as the State Director of the Oregon Working Families Party. We are a grassroots political organization made up of community based organizations and unions who are committed to building a society that works for all of us, not just the wealthy and well-connected. We advocate for economic justice, racial equity, and a democracy that centers working people and their communities.

That is why I write to urge your strong support for **HB 3179**, a bill that addresses the urgent need for corporate accountability in Oregon's energy landscape.

**HB 3179**, the FAIR Energy Act, represents a significant advancement in utility regulation by prioritizing consumer protection and utility accountability. It establishes necessary guardrails to better shield working families from the financial strain of unpredictable and rising utility costs.

The Oregon Working Families Party knows what these struggles look like to the working people across Oregon. For many, a rate hike during the cold winter months is devastating. Too many families are already finding it hard to make ends meet and are then faced with inhumane rate hikes, which can force families to have to make really tough financial decisions. By requiring spacing between major increases and prohibiting rate hikes during the winter months, this bill recognizes the real harm that rapid, repeated hikes can inflict, particularly on low and fixed-income families, seniors, and communities of color.

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**HB 3179** is about putting people over profit and preventing utilities from piling on rate increases without regard for how those costs impact households that are already struggling to afford basic necessities. It would create a transparent public record of how rate dollars are being spent and empower ratepayers with knowledge and tools to hold utilities accountable.

At the Working Families Party, we stand with everyday Oregonians who believe in a fair economy. **HB 3179** is a step toward better corporate accountability in a time when that seems harder and harder to find.

We respectfully urge you to support **HB 3179**.

Sincerely,

*Annie Naranjo-Rivera*  
*State Director*  
*Oregon Working Families Party*