



Representative Hoa Nguyen
Oregon House District 48

HB 3179 - REQUIRING PUC TO SAFEGUARD CONSUMERS

5/7 House Rules

My name is Hoa Nguyen, and I am the State Representative for House District 48, which includes outer Southeast Portland and North Clackamas County. I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 3179, introduced during the 2025 legislative session, a pivotal measure that addresses increasing utility rates and protects Oregon's working families.

As the Representative of underserved communities in East Portland, I know that skyrocketing utility prices, and especially electricity rate increases, have hit my constituents particularly hard. PGE rates have increased 40% since 2021, at a time where working families are already struggling. As we seek to address Oregon's ongoing cost-of-living crisis, cutting down on these significant rate increases is a key part of the conversation. HB 3179 takes a crucial step in the right direction.

This bill adds consideration of utility rate increases that will impact companies' revenue, as well as how higher rates will impact the consumers, to the responsibilities of the Public Utility Commission (PUC). This ensures that the members of the PUC are taking into account what factors are driving rate increases, and whether those are a result of rising operations costs, or are because the company would like to increase its revenue.

HB 3179 also requires the PUC to consider how rate hikes above 2.5% will impact consumers, along with their general economic impact. Consumers' depend on having access to affordable electricity and heating, and cannot simply choose not to pay for utilities when rates are increased.

Finally, this bill increases the transparency and accountability of public utilities which provide electricity or gas services by requiring them to provide and make public a visual representation of the cost categories included in the public utility's residential customer rates.

HB 3179 simply makes the rate-setting process more fair and equitable for consumers, and ensures that rates are based on the real cost of providing those utilities, not a desire to increase revenue. This bill takes a crucial step to protect Oregon's ratepayers and address the cost-of-living crisis facing workers and working families.

I urge the committee to support this legislation to increase Oregon's affordability.

Thank you for your consideration.