

Submitter: Craig Lacy
On Behalf Of: The Vocal Seniority Indivisible Bend
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB926

To: Chairman Kropf and members of the House Committee On Judiciary

I present this testimony on behalf of Indivisible Bend, formerly The Vocal Seniority. We are a group of over 800 people in Bend who are committed to defending democracy, advancing social justice and protecting the environment.

We support SB 926A for the following reasons

This legislation will incentivize privately owned electric utilities to adopt safer practices and make them accountable in the event they are responsible for wildfire disasters. If a utility is found negligent in causing a wildfire there will be consequences and those companies shall not distribute dividends or profits to shareholders while they have outstanding debts related to judgements.

This legislation would prohibit utilities from recovering wildfire lawsuit costs from ratepayers if the company was found to have acted negligently. It would also require the utilities to pay 9% interest to folks damaged by their reckless behavior starting with the time of the event, not the date of settlement.

Electric bills in the state have gone up 50% over the past five years. Pacific Corps shareholder equity was up \$540 million from last year. It is time for the utilities to pay for the damages they cause and do a better job preventing future fires from poor powerline ignited events.

We strongly encourage you to vote yes and pass SB 926A

Craig Lacy

Indivisible Bend