

May 13, 2025

**Position on Bills at 2025  
Session of Oregon Legislature:**

**SB 926A: Support, Additional Testimony**



The Consolidated Oregon Indivisible Network (COIN) is a coalition of over 50 local Indivisible groups throughout Oregon that cooperate and amplify their joint efforts to advance important federal and state legislation and engage with elected officials to promote causes for the benefit of all Oregonians.

COIN supports SB 926A, which would prohibit a regulated electric utility with more than 25,000 retail customers in Oregon (PGE, PP&L) from charging ratepayers for certain costs, if a court or jury finds that a wildfire resulted from the negligence or a higher degree of fault on the part of the electric company.

COIN filed detailed testimony on May 10. We now respond to the later-filed testimony of Portland General Electric Co. (PGE).

PGE now claims:

SB 926A Discourages Settlement of Wildfire Claims The bill prohibits cost recovery of settlements even when the utility may have had no role in the fire, such as when a fire investigation is incomplete and no cause has been established. This will lead to fewer settlements with those affected by wildfires, cutting off a potential path to more timely compensation than relying on the court system.

This is not the case. SB 926A does not restrict cost recovery of any settlement, unless “a court or jury finds that a wildfire resulted from the negligence or a higher degree of fault on the part of an electric company.” Thus, if the utility had no role in the fire, there would be no such judicial finding.

PGE also raises the specter of utility bankruptcy. Utilities do occasionally declare bankruptcy and complete the federal bankruptcy process. Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E) has gone through bankruptcy twice since 2001. The utility never ceased operations. The basic consequence was that the shareholders of the company lost substantial value in their shares, as the utility issued new stock to raise money for its capital needs and operations.

**Consolidated Oregon Indivisible Network (COIN)**

Daniel Meek  
authorized testifier  
[dan@meek.net](mailto:dan@meek.net) 503-293-9021