

Submitter: Sheri Winters

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1588

Dear Senate Committee on Energy and Environment,

I oppose this bill for several reasons, but the first is because it is making utility companies into lending institutions. That is not their role. Putting this requirement on the utility company would be burdensome and create huge administrative costs. This bill also allows utilities to earn performance incentives while recovering program costs through rates. This creates a risk that non-participating customers will subsidize these programs, even if they never receive upgrades or cost savings themselves. Low-income customers, renters, and others who cannot easily participate will likely end up paying higher bills to support such a program. One other area that throws up huge red flags is regarding voluntary market-based programs and existing efficiency incentives that already exist in many areas. This bill could crowd out private financing options and limit innovation by imposing a single, utility-run model.

I strongly urge you to VOTE NO on SB 1588