

Submitter: Andrew Simrin

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1588

Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Brock Smith, and Members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment:

I am a homeowner and ratepayer in Eugene.

Perhaps most importantly, this bill will fund energy efficiency and strategic electrification without additional burden to the General Fund or ratepayers.

I support the requirement in this bill that each electric company will be required to create an "inclusive utility investment program" to help customers pay for energy efficiency upgrades or renewable energy projects, such as solar panels or electric heat pumps, with the goal of reducing their utility costs. Allowing for payments for upgrades to be made with the monthly savings on customers' utility bills makes energy efficiency and the savings that comes with it accessible to everyone, particularly low-income and environmental justice communities.

This type of program is proven tool to lower utility bills by enabling energy efficiency and electrification upgrades with no upfront cost to households. It not only saves us money, but it also reduces energy consumption, which we must do in order to address climate change.

I thank Senator Golden and Senator Neron Misslin for sponsoring this important legislation.

I urge the committee to vote YES on SB 1588 and keep this bill moving forward.