

To: Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
From: Sarah Chaney
Re: SUPPORT for SB 1588 – Upgrade and Save
Date: February 10, 2026

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

I'm writing in support of SB 1588.

I think creating an "inclusive utility investment program" to help customers pay for energy efficiency upgrades or renewable energy projects is a great idea. In my own experience, when we needed to replace an aging gas heater in early 2021, the upfront cost of buying a heat pump was prohibitive compared to a high-efficiency gas heater. Installing solar on our perfectly oriented roof was also out of reach, even with the tax credits that came with the Inflation Reduction Act.

This bill requires each electric company to create an "inclusive utility investment program" to help customers pay for energy efficiency upgrades or renewable energy projects. I think the word "each" is very important so that this investment program is available to everyone who is eligible state-wide. I have found that different utilities offer different incentives or rebates to help pay for heat pumps or renewable energy projects. When searching for incentives to afford a heat pump, I found that the electric utility company serving my neighborhood had very little to offer me to help me switch from gas to electricity. However, if I had lived in a different part of town, or near Portland, the incentives were more substantial and available.

It's my understanding that the Public Utility Commission will have the authority to set minimum financial savings standards and offer performance incentives to electric companies. I hope the performance incentives are high enough to effectively convince electric companies to help middle and low-income customers make the transition to heating and cooling options that are better for our planet and can help then lower their energy bills.

Please support SB 1588.

Thank you.