

Chairman Beyer

Committee members

My name is Greg Pilcher

I am here to bring up a concern that could be addressed by SB807

I have been the general manager of Iseli Nursery in Boring Oregon for 25 years

We are a grower of container ornamental landscape plants and have 195 full time employees.

Our sales dropped 33% after the 2008 housing and financial crash. We were proud to have survived the crash. We are in a highly competitive business. Not only are our neighbors in Oregon are our competitors, we have competition from growers on the east coast in our market place that have an increasing advantage due to the increased transportation costs to those markets.

We like all surviving businesses examined every possible cost saving to keep our company, the employees, our vendors and our customers viable. We are satisfied when we could find prudent savings and are frustrated when we could influence none.

We spent over \$260,000 with PGE in 2012. We are significantly more efficient with our electricity use now than we were eight years ago, but our efficiencies have not kept up with the power cost increases. Additionally, in the past eight years the Public Purpose Charge, this effective tax, has costs us just shy of \$50,000.

I appreciate your introduction of SB 807. An audit of the "money flow" of the Public Purpose Charge will be good. Better would be to have the Public Purpose Charge repealed.

The "stakeholders" were promised that SB1149 was to sunset in 2012 and that was written into the law. I find now that it was quietly extended in 2007 for an additional 14 years! "Stakeholders" present in 1999 were those wanting the law and its funds to promote alternative energy use and "transform" the markets. They were the same stakeholders that have lobbied to raise my rates with very expensive "renewable power" mandates for utilities. The cooperatives rate payers were represented in their service area and escaped the tax. The ratepayers of investor owned PGE and PPL were not at the table. PPL and PGE are concerned about their stockholders, not their customers, and are amenable to any pass through cost burden. The ratepayers, our farm and my coworkers, have to count on you, the legislature, to look out for our interest. The original promise should be kept; the Public Purpose Charge should have expired in 2012 and should now see its sunset along with other growing surcharge assessments that unfairly punish our business. Thank you Greg Pilcher Iseli Nursery 30590 Kelso Road Boring Oregon