

*Testimony submitted via email.*

*Chair Greenlick and members,*

*I am writing to oppose HB 3268, which would repeal provisions directing the Public Utility Commission to administer residential telecommunication service program, and abolish the Residential Service Protection Fund*

*I have hearing loss and make use of hearing aids to improve my hearing. I am also active in the Portland Chapter of the Hearing Loss Association of America, which meets monthly as a support group.*

*At our meetings I have become aware of how many people with hearing loss have trouble using the telephone and how this restricts their lives. Captioned phones offer critical assistance to many of us. I also know that, as a group, people with disabilities have much lower incomes than people without disabilities, and many cannot afford to purchase electronic hardware that will benefit them. The Residential Service Protection Fund helps provide captioned phones at no charge to people with documented hearing loss.*

*These PUC's programs, including the RSPF, provide great benefits to many Oregonians, and to eliminate the services will further disadvantage people who are already coping with a hearing disability.*

*I urge you not to move this bill forward. Thank you for your consideration.*

*Anne McLaughlin*

*2743 NW Thurman #5*

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