

Business and Transportation Committee

SB 1552

Dear Senators,

I am writing this letter in support of the Ratepayer Protection Act (SB 1552)

The power rates on our four irrigation pumps went up 50% each year for 8 years. The PUC thought that was alright. Our rates in Klamath County are higher compared to much of Eastern Oregon. We are paying approximately 10 cents per KWH while neighboring counties pay around 5 cents per KWH. Everytime my power bill comes, I almost have to rob a bank to pay the outrageous rates. The high power rates are having a devastating effect on irrigated agriculture in our county.

Why do I have to pay a Public Purpose Charge? I already pay far too much for my power. Why do I have to subsidize others? If rates were within reason perhaps people could pay their own bills.

Monthly, I pay a dam removal surcharge. Why must I pay for something that doesn't need to happen? The dams are perfectly fine. Hydro electric power is the cheapest and greenest form of electricity in our state. Dam removal is going to cause so much damage downstream that the river will never recover.

If we are so concerned about fish, put in fish ladders. Fish ladders exist all over Oregon and work well. Why are we not allowed to have them on the Klamath River? We have been taxed enough for dam removal. Use the money to build fish ladders.

Again, I urge you to support SB 1552. As Oregonian we are constantly being hit with higher fees for everything. Higher power rates have to stop. We are being bled dry.

Virginia Topham

Flying T Ranch

Sprague River, OR