

To the Senate Committee on Business and Transportation,

The Pacific Green Party signs on to the testimony of the Progressive Party regarding SB 1552 which establishes a 4.5% rate of return limit.

With particular emphasis we agree with the statement that "The U.S. Constitution does not guarantee to any utility rates high enough to necessarily produce a profit or even high enough to avoid bankruptcy."

Further, regarding fees to remediate superfund sites, it is critical that responsibility is not avoided. Ratepayers should be responsible for the marketplace actions that lead to pollution in the first place, to allow the marketplace to properly take the impacts of pollution into account.

Additionally, regarding reducing the public purpose charge, rather than reducing it, we would like to see its use expanded to fund energy conservation and efficiency measures especially. Renewable energy should be mandated with hard requirements rather than a special separate charge item that gives people the impression that renewable energy is a separate cost on their bill that could be reduced. Instead, they should see it as part of the standard rate. It should also be forbidden to request ratepayers subsidize renewable energy by volunteering to pay more for renewable energy credits than the standard fare unless such extra collected money pays for renewable energy beyond the state-mandated percentage.

And, lastly, we strongly support revolving door restrictions.

This would be strong support for elements numbered 1 and 8 and strong opposition to elements 3, 4, and 7, as numbered by the Progressive Party testimony. We also concur with opposing element 2.

Seth Woolley
Secretary and Spokesperson
Pacific Green Party of Oregon