

February 18, 2025

TO: House Committee On Commerce and Consumer Protection
FROM: Ali King, Our Children Oregon
SUBJECT: Support for HB 3179, The FAIR Energy Act

Chair Sosa, Vice Chairs Chaichi and Osborne, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Ali King and I am the Policy and Advocacy Director for Our Children Oregon (OCO), a statewide organization that advances equitable policies, data and research, and whole-child advocacy.

I am writing on behalf of OCO in support of HB 3179, The FAIR Energy Act. Throughout my career as a Policy and Advocacy Director and former Director of Constituent Services for a federal congressional office, I have seen firsthand how so many families in Oregon are one rate increase away from having to decide between heat and food for the month.

Oregon's for-profit utilities have raised energy bills by 50% since 2021. HB 3179 empowers regulators to delay bill increases, helping households better manage their energy bills and allows regulators to consider economic impacts on customers, such as unemployment data and the number of customer disconnections for nonpayment. Too many people are struggling to pay their energy bills. While some assistance programs are available, these alone are not enough to keep up with the needs of utility customers. **This bill works to change the priorities of for-profit utilities and state regulators to center consumer affordability.**

I appreciate your dedication and commitment to our state and I urge you to protect Oregonians from rising energy costs by voting **YES on HB 3179.**

Sincerely,



Ali King, Policy and Advocacy Director, Our Children Oregon