



February 20, 2025

The Honorable Nathan Sosa - Chairman  
House Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee  
900 Court Street, NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Representative Sosa,

I am writing today on behalf of the Alliance of Western Energy Consumers (AWEC). AWEC opposes HB 3179 as it is currently drafted.

AWEC is a non-profit organization comprised of some of the largest, most innovative and trusted employers in the west. AWEC provides a strong advocacy voice in shaping the dynamics of energy markets, natural gas markets, and regulatory policy. Our members provide tens of thousands of highly paid technical jobs. AWEC has a large and diversified base of members that represent industries such as agriculture, aeronautics, air products, pulp and paper, food processing, informational technology, healthcare and more.

HB 3179 aims to protect residential ratepayers from significant rate increases, but industrial and commercial ratepayers have also seen significant increases in energy costs during the timeframe residential rates have increased. Indeed, since 2020, industrial customers served by PacifiCorp have seen *higher* rate increases than residential customers, and the increases for PGE industrial customers are comparable to those experienced by residential customers. AWEC is concerned that the bill, and the -1 amendments, do not provide protections for other rate classes for cost shifts that would naturally occur as a result of this legislation, further increasing costs for businesses of all sizes in the state. This bill poses a significant risk for shifting unrecovered costs from residential customers to all other customer classes.

If residential customers have limits on the timing and the amount of their rate increases, it creates a situation where the difference in what a utility is authorized to recover from those customers will need to be collected or recovered from everyone else. HB 3179 as drafted does not provide safeguards to ensure that commercial and industrial ratepayers aren't forced to pay additional costs associated with the relief provided to residential ratepayers. Even if the Legislature were only concerned with residential ratepayers, the impacts of these additional costs on businesses will have a material economic impact in the state, which will ultimately harm residential customers as consumers and employees.

AWEC opposes HB 3179 and the -1 amendment and would appreciate the opportunity to work to ensure that adequate safeguards are put in place for commercial and industrial ratepayers.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bill Gaines", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Bill Gaines  
Executive Director