



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

My name is Brad Reed. I am the Campaign Director for Building Resilience. Our coalition is dedicated to making sure all Oregonians have access to healthy, affordable, resilient homes and buildings that run on clean energy, to lower climate pollution and improve safety while creating good-paying jobs.

We support HB 3179. Homes and buildings are our first line of defense against climate harms, like extreme heat and wildfire smoke. When fear of high energy bills forces Oregonians to choose not to turn on their heat in the winter or cooling in a heat wave, that's not resilience.

We believe that structural changes within the Public Utility Commission (PUC) are essential to address the root issues of energy unaffordability. The PUC requires more tools to center customer realities, ensuring that rate decisions reflect the financial challenges faced by our communities.

Winter rate increases disproportionately impact low-income, rural, Black, Indigenous, and people of color in Oregon. These communities often face the difficult choice between heating their homes and meeting other basic necessities. Allowing rates to increase annually without comprehensive oversight exacerbates this burden, leading to negative outcomes in health, housing stability, and overall well-being.

HB 3179 proposes critical reforms, including:

- **Empowering the PUC to consider the cumulative economic impact of proposed rate increases**, ensuring that decisions account for the financial realities of ratepayers.
- **Enhancing transparency** by requiring utilities to provide clear information about cost categories included in residential customer rates and to report expected rate adjustments.

These measures align with our coalition's vision of prioritizing those most harmed by the climate crisis and the high cost of fossil fuels.

By supporting HB 3179, we can foster a more equitable energy system that protects vulnerable communities from disproportionate energy burdens and increases resilience.

Sincerely,

Brad Reed
[Building Resilience](#)