

Submitter: Ruth Dallas

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Commerce and Consumer Protection

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3179

As everyone who lives in Oregon knows utility rates have increased dramatically in the last few years. Even in my own neighborhood which is a middle class neighborhood some neighbors are behind on their utility payments and some have had utilities turned off in the past. Utilities have made record profits for shareholders while insisting their rates must increase by 30-50% year by year. I have seen media reports that these same utilities that insist they need large rate increases are billing customers for lobbying, and advertising which I don't think customers should have to pay for. Often these companies while insisting that they need these large increases are paying top management huge salaries and building lavish headquarters and offices. It is past time for our PUC to have a say in when these large rate increases are actually necessary and to assure that customers have detailed bills that show where their money is going. Customers have no choice in utility providers and thus have no say in what they pay. This needs to change. Thank you.