



February 20, 2025

TO: House Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

RE: Opposition to HB 3179

Chair Sosa, Members of the Committee;

IBEW Local 125, IBEW Local 659, Ironworkers Local 29, and UA Local 290 Plumbers and Steamfitters urge opposition and further conversation with our Utility Partners around HB 3179. Collectively we represent thousands of working men and women in the industry, many of whom do work on the construction and maintenance of the State's utility infrastructure.

We understand the goals of House Bill 3179, and that ratepayers across the state seek affordable utilities. As HB 3179 is written, however, the bill will have a negative impact on rate payers, workers, and the utilities. Capping rates can see companies look for cost cutting measures across the board and limit needed investment in critical infrastructure. We have concern that this would push our industry partners to make cuts to workforce costs which will harm family wage jobs & limit the quality of available workforce, and that infrastructure investments will move out of state.

We do not believe the best way to serve the people of Oregon is to discourage investments in utility safety, maintenance, capacity, or the skilled workforce needed for infrastructure.

While we agree with the desire for sustainable, affordable rates, this conversation must be had very thoughtfully and hold key safety and service delivery needs as non-negotiable. As written, HB 3179 does not do that.

We hope to be partners and serve as a resource in these conversations and ask that you work with our industry partners to develop policy that protects the needs, safety, and livelihoods of Oregonians.

Thank you for your time and attention.