

Submitter: lynn handlin

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Commerce and Consumer Protection

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3179

In support of HB 3179, the FAIR act.

Utility rates have risen sharply, and as a utility user, I want to be able to see easily why my rates are rising. I want utility companies to be required to be more transparent. I know that my heating company, the methane people at NW Natural have raised rates a LOT and tried to blame some of that on climate regulation. They put an insert in my bill about how the CPP was going to force rate hikes without helping with climate, which was false. And I paid for that with my utility payments! As a tax professional I see people's utility bills (home office expenses!) and I have seen the sharp increases, this is really hard for some of them, especially my self employed social workers who work from home and do not make a lot of money. Transparency and an expansion of PUC oversight regarding rates will help.