



350PDX
3625 N. Mississippi Avenue
Portland, OR 97227
350pdx.org

February 25, 2025
Re: Support HB 3179

Dear Chair Sosa, Vice Chairs Chaichi and Osborne, and members of the House Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection,

The FAIR Energy Act (HB 3179) brings forward essential reforms that will not only better protect the citizens of Oregon but also will allow the public utility commission (PUC) to better regulate utility companies, ensuring they are more transparent and affordable to consumers in an age of consistent rate hikes.

With thousands of members around the Portland area, 350PDX regularly hears of individuals' struggles to pay their utility bills. This is particularly the case during winter cold snaps and extreme heat in summer, when heating and cooling our homes is a matter of life and death. In recent years, utility bills have increased at unbearable rates.

Under HB 3179, clarity will increase regarding the PUC's authority when it comes to evaluating rate hikes that increase a utility's revenue by 2.5% or more. It requires rate increases to be assessed based on their real-world economic impact on Oregon households. It will also give the PUC the power to create actual change, giving them discretion to set the lowest reasonable rates. This protects all of us as utility customers.

The bill also mandates full transparency from utility companies, requiring them to fully disclose their costs to the public, allowing everyone to see what utilities are spending money on. In addition to providing transparency, this will also serve as a check, ensuring that all Oregonians will have clear insight into how ratepayer funds are being used. HB 3179 also safeguards Oregonians during their most vulnerable winter months by not allowing November to March rate increases.

HB 3179 is a vital step in ensuring that energy costs remain reasonable and in keeping utilities accountable to the public. By strengthening the PUC's role and requiring greater transparency from utilities, this bill helps safeguard households from unjustified rate hikes, promoting a more equitable energy system. I urge your support to put the interests of Oregonians ahead of corporate profits: vote yes on HB 3179.

Santiago Nolasco Galicia
Climate Policy Assistant, Energy
350PDX

Dr. Cherice Bock
Climate Policy Manager
350PDX

Building the climate justice movement.