



March 6, 2025

The Honorable John Lively
Chairman
House Climate, Energy, and Environment Committee
900 Court Street, NE

Dear Representative Lively,

I am writing today on behalf of the Alliance of Western Energy Consumers (AWEC). AWEC opposes HB 3546 as it is currently drafted.

AWEC is a non-profit organization comprised of some of the largest, most innovative and trusted employers in the west. AWEC provides a strong advocacy voice in shaping the dynamics of energy markets, natural gas markets, and regulatory policy. Our members provide tens of thousands of highly paid technical jobs. AWEC has a large and diversified base of members that represent industries such as agriculture, aeronautics, air products, pulp and paper, food processing, informational technology, healthcare and more.

HB 3546 sets a bad precedent to single out one industry, and put them in their own rate class. Such treatment could trigger equal protection concerns, and the Legislature should have clear evidence that a particular industry is driving the utility cost increases that are the impetus for this legislation before it singles out these customers.

Such evidence does not exist. Since 2021, PGE residential transmission costs have only increased by 6%, in line with inflation. Industrial transmission costs have increased by 8%. Residential customers are also paying in line with the cost required to serve them. The real driver of utility rate increases in recent years is power costs. Residential power costs for PGE have increased 61% since 2021, while industrial power costs have increased 84%. These power cost increases are due to a number of complicated market dynamics that will not be solved by scapegoating one industry

We ask that you set this legislation aside, and not single out one industry with the creation of a new rate class. AWEC is as interested as HB 3546's proponents in mitigating utility rate impacts and stands ready to work with these proponents and the Legislature to craft policies that, unlike HB 3546, will achieve this important goal.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bill Gaines", is written over a light blue circular watermark.

Bill Gaines
Alliance of Western Energy Consumers
Executive Director