

Submitter: Lynn St Georges  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3546

I am writing to express my concerns about PGE's ongoing rate increases and in support of HB 3546.

This year I will be 70 years old. Due to various circumstances I did not retire wealthy but I thought I would be able to manage on my own as a widowed person. I'm learning, however, that I was wrong and the significant and repeated rate increases that PGE is imposing on its customers are a huge concern. (Needless to say the ongoing chaos in our federal government has added to the insecurity I and other seniors have about our Social Security (my sole income) and Medicare.)

My Social Security monthly benefit is \$2,044/month.

I live in a modest manufactured home that is ~1,500 square feet. I had a new furnace/heat pump installed in January 2024 to ensure efficiency (and that as an older person I do not become a statistic during increasing heat and cold periods). My new smart thermostat is set to 60 deg at 10 pm and 66 deg at 7:30 am. (I am frequently cold during the day in spite of wearing warm clothes.) I only use a light in the room I am in and am very conscientious about turning off unused lights. I use my new energy-efficient washer/dryer no more than twice/week, and my new energy-efficient dish washer monthly at the most (I generally hand wash the few dishes).

I am not sure how to be more energy efficient; however, my PGE bill for February was \$253.19 for one month in spite of my best efforts.

I'm sorry to drone on here about my personal situation when my real frustration is that PGE continues to raise residential rates to support the huge increases in use by the ever-increasing data centers. It's maddening that Oregon is giving these incredibly rich corporations significant tax breaks as part of the "enterprise zone" program solely to allow more energy-depleting entities that use large amounts of land, consume a ton of energy, and employ few Oregonians while receiving hundreds of millions in incentives each year.

Please remove some of the burden on Oregon's citizens, particularly seniors and low-income residents, and move that to the already wealthy corporations. Thank you.