



To: Senate Committee on Energy and Environment

From: Lisa Arkin, Executive Director - Beyond Toxics

Subject: Yes on SB 688

Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Brock Smith, and Members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment,

My name is Lisa Arkin, Executive Director of Beyond Toxics. I am writing today to testify in support of SB 688, which modernizes Oregon's outdated utility regulation system to better protect ratepayers and ensure fair, performance-based utility oversight. Thank you for the opportunity to share my support for this important policy solution!

For decades, Oregon's Public Utility Commission has operated under a framework that prioritizes infrastructure expansion over efficiency, leaving Oregonians paying more than necessary for energy. This outdated approach fails to hold utilities accountable for service quality, cost efficiency, or equitable access, particularly during extreme weather events and wildfire emergencies, which disproportionately impact frontline communities.

SB 688 builds upon proven regulatory models by explicitly authorizing Performance-Based Regulation, ensuring that utility companies are incentivized to improve reliability, affordability, and clean energy transition efforts. This bill provides the tools and resources needed to align Oregon's regulatory framework with modern energy and climate goals.

We support SB 688 because it prioritizes consumer protection, energy resilience, and environmental justice. I urge a YES vote to advance utility regulation that works for all Oregonians!

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Lisa Arkin

Executive Director, Beyond Toxics