

Submitter: Donna Maebori
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB88

I am writing in support of SB 88, which would eliminate unnecessary increases in costs borne by customers of electricity and gas companies, in service of extraneous spending by utility companies.

It makes full sense that power companies need to pay out of their profits for such activity as lobbying, lawyer fees, marketing and industry association fees. Such activities are in no way provision of electricity and gas to customers, and should not be paid for by customers.

As a customer of both utilities, I want my bills to reflect the energy I consume and the cost of production and transmission of the energy, either electricity or gas. It is troubling to think my payments can be increased recover discretionary spending costs by the utility companies with no oversight. There needs to be clear limits set by the Public Utility Commission (PUC) on such recovery of discretionary spending through increased charges on customer bills, which SB 88 would provide for.

I appreciate that SB 88 would require annual reports from utility companies to the PUC, which would be able to impose civil penalties for any violations. These are necessary mechanisms for compliance.

Thank you.