



Representative Lamar Wise
Oregon House District 48

SB 1597 - Energy Cost Transparency

Senate Energy and Environment | February 4th 2026, 3:00 PM

Good afternoon, Chair Sollman and members of the committee. For the record, I'm Representative Lamar Wise from SE Portland and North Clackamas. I'm supporting SB 1597 as an intentional step in advancing transparency and consumer justice in energy.

Affordability is the North Star of our work in the legislature: at the end of the day, we do what we do to ensure that Oregonians are housed, clothed, fed, and safe, and that they stay that way. In a time where costs are rising and available support systems are thinning out, the average Oregonian is being faced with increasingly hard decisions about how to sustain the fundamental things they need to get by.

We know that affordability goes hand in hand with transparency and accountability. When consumers pay into a system, whether that be utilities, education, or anything in between, they deserve to know that their money is being spent responsibly, and that the costs they and their community incur are proportionate to the benefits they receive. SB 1597 seeks to improve current standards of accountability by requiring that:

- a) Electric utilities disclose the costs of waste storage recouped by their rates; and,
- b) Prospective developers disclose the costs of storing the waste that an energy facility will generate.

These simple changes will increase transparency and opportunities for oversight over utilities and their rates, which are notoriously nebulous and inaccessible to the average Oregonian. SB 1597 helps ensure that these systems stay out of the shadows and under the watchful public eye.

I urge your support for this bill; thank you for your consideration.