



From the Offices of Representatives Nathan Sosa, Pam Marsh, Ricki Ruiz

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Oregon House Passes FAIR Energy Act, Shielding Oregonians from Rising Utility Costs

SALEM, Ore. – Over the past 5 years, Oregonians have seen their electric and gas bills increase by roughly 40% - 56% according to a [presentation](#) given to the House Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee earlier this session. This has resulted in tens of thousands of power shutoffs, sometimes in the dead of winter. The FAIR Energy Act ([HB 3179](#)), championed by **Rep. Nathan Sosa** (D-Greater Hillsboro), would reform the rate-setting process in various ways to ensure that the interests of Oregon consumers are prioritized.

The bill is designed to lower utility bills by requiring the Public Utility Commission to thoroughly consider the impact on consumers before approving a rate increase, while also prohibiting rate increases during the winter months (November 1 - March 31).

“I have heard repeatedly from my constituents how frustrated they are with the dramatic and repeated increases in their utility bills,” said **Rep. Sosa (D-Greater Hillsboro)**. “This bill will prevent the historic price shocks we have seen in recent years.”

“With the staggering increase of energy bills, higher costs of living, and more extreme weather events, many Oregonians are forced to decide whether to pay for rent and food, or to keep their homes warm or cool,” said **Rep. Pam Marsh (D-Southern Jackson County)**. “By prioritizing consumers and holding utility companies accountable, the FAIR Energy Act helps to ensure that no one needs make choices like these.”

“Working families in East Multnomah County and across Oregon are being pushed to the brink by rising utility costs. No one should have to face a shutoff notice during extreme temperatures just because they couldn’t afford another surprise rate hike. The FAIR Energy Act puts people first — it brings much-needed accountability to the process and ensures that our most vulnerable neighbors are protected,” said **Rep. Ricki Ruiz (D-Gresham)**.

The bill will move to the Senate for final passage.

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