

JANEEN SOLLMAN
STATE SENATOR
DISTRICT 15



OREGON STATE SENATE

June 23, 2025

Obadiah Rutledge
Secretary of the Senate

RE: Vote Explanation for Senate Bill 688 B

Dear Secretary Rutledge,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my vote explanation for Senate Bill 688 B. I voted in strong support of this bill because I know that rising utility costs have been a top concern for my constituents. Families and small businesses are feeling the strain, and they need relief.

Senate Bill 688 B creates a new tool for the PUC to better align utility operations with the public interest—through performance-based regulation. Performance-based regulation has now been used or considered in 19 states and the District of Columbia since 2015. SB 688 B will prioritize affordability, sustainability, and customer service—not just profit.

The combination of SB 688 B, along with the POWER Act and the Fair Energy Act, will provide utility customers the best 'bang for their buck' this session in terms of cost savings. House Bill 3546, or the POWER Act holds large energy users—like data centers—accountable for paying their fair share of infrastructure costs, ensuring that unfair rate hikes aren't passed on to everyday Oregonians. Meanwhile, House Bill 3179 B, the Fair Energy Act adds transparency and protects families from unfair utility rate hikes by requiring the Public Utility Commission to consider real-world impacts—like income and cost of living—before approving increases, banning winter hikes, and ensuring clearer billing. Together, these three pieces of legislation create a comprehensive approach to utility reform that prioritizes affordability, fairness, and transparency for Oregon ratepayers.

I am proud to support these three bills this session, which will provide real solutions to help Oregonians keep the lights on and bills manageable. For these reasons, I voted yes on SB 688 B.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Janeen Sollman'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Senator Janeen Sollman – Senate District 15