



## SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

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### **Senate Democrats Put People Over Profits in Vote on Utility Costs**

*House Bill 3179 makes real-life impact on Oregonians a part of rate decisions*

**SALEM, OR** – Oregon’s largest for-profit utilities have raised rates by nearly 50 percent for residential customers since 2021, and thousands of families have had their service disconnected over their inability to pay. House Bill 3179—the FAIR Energy Act—requires the Public Utility Commission (PUC) to consider the economic impact on customers when they decide whether to approve increases in gas and electric rates. It passed the Oregon Senate Tuesday evening.

The measure also authorizes the commission to require 18 months between rate increases up until January of 2027, and it calls on the PUC to adopt rules on how long utilities must hold rates steady after that date. House Bill 3179 also prohibits rate increases between November and March and requires utilities to publicize rate changes customers can expect over the next year.

“The bill establishes necessary guardrails to better shield working families from the financial strain of unpredictable and rising utility costs,” said **Senator Chris Gorsek (D – Troutdale)**, who carried the measure on the Senate floor.

Two Republicans joined Senate Democrats in supporting HB 3179. It passed the Senate in a vote of 20 to 9 and now goes to Governor Tina Kotek for her signature.

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