

Itemized charges:

Profit on Trojan (closed since 1993):	\$170/person
Phone bill, basic rate increase:	+\$76.80/year
Electric bill increase	+\$50.70/year
Environmental costs:	Immeasurable

Amount Due: **Too Much!**

Date Due: Pending approval by the Public Utility Commission
& the Oregon Legislature

Make Checks Payable to:

Your

Utility Company

J.Q. Ratepayer
Main Street
Home Town, OR 97000

This bill is not real — yet.



Citizens' Utility Board of Oregon

921 SW Morrison #511 ♦ Portland OR 97205 ♦ (503) 227-1984 ♦ email cub@teleport.com

Dear Fellow Citizen,

If big utilities get their way, your bills are headed for the sky.

Electric companies and phone companies want changes that could raise your utility bills by over \$125 a year.

Think it couldn't happen? Governor Kitzhaber and the Oregon Legislature just passed House Bill 3220, which hands Portland General Electric (PGE) \$304 million in ratepayer money. The new law allows PGE to collect a profit on Trojan nuclear power plant — even though the plant has been closed for almost 7 years! Your share is about \$170.

I think that's outrageous, and I bet you do too. But that's not the end of it. Privately-owned utilities like US West, GTE, Pacific Power and PGE are constantly dreaming up new schemes to fleece customers like you and me.

Here's a couple of crazy plans I'm fighting right now:

1. **Phone Rip-off.** Your local phone company wants to gouge you. As I write, the Oregon Legislature is considering Senate Bill 622.

SB 622 would jack up all residential phone bills by as much as 50% ... cut service standards ... and allow your phone company unlimited profits.

What a deal, right?

2. **Selling Out the Environment.** We all know that energy conservation works. The less power we use, the less damage we do to the environment.

And conservation saves money. On average, residential customers like you use about 1,177 fewer kilowatts -- about one month's worth -- than 20 years ago. That saves you about \$66 a year.

If several other simple conservation measures were taken, you could save an additional \$50.70 per year. So why not do it?

Because power companies have slashed their energy conservation programs by 90% in the last few years.

Fortunately, the Oregon Legislature has passed Senate Bill 1149 (SB 1149). It requires private utilities to invest in energy efficiency programs, weatherization, and renewable power.

SB 1149 is supported by utilities, private industry, and a coalition of 100 public interest, neighborhood, and social service organizations, including CUB.

Only Pacific Power opposes it. Why? Because it wants the bill to give its shareholders a windfall of half a billion to two billion dollars. All at the expense of ratepayers.

As the globe heats up and entire species teeter on the brink of extinction, we can't afford to let utilities cut back on conservation.

These plans are just two examples of the kind of nonsense private utilities are up to every day. And if a private utility has to choose between making money and serving you better ... you'll probably come second.

Do you want to pick up the tab for them? Of course not. None of us can afford it.

Fortunately, I can help.

I've fought utilities for the past seven years on behalf of Oregon's ratepayers, to make certain you're charged fairly for your electricity and telephone services. And I've also worked hard to ensure that the natural splendors of the Northwest aren't sacrificed for utilities' short-term gain.

You see, I'm the Executive Director of Citizens' Utility Board (CUB). CUB was created in 1984 by Oregon voters to put an end to padded utility rates. In the 15 years since it was founded, CUB has won refunds worth millions for customers of GTE, Sprint/United, PGE, and US West. And we've won much more in rate reductions.

Because of CUB, consumers throughout the state have received over \$800 million dollars in rate reductions and refunds — almost a billion dollars! That's \$400 for every dollar contributed by folks like you and me.

CUB has also won important policy victories in court, in the legislature, and before the Public Utility Commission (PUC) that protect:

- ◆ the environment
- ◆ consumer privacy
- ◆ low-income Oregonians

But fighting utilities isn't cheap. They spend tens of thousands of dollars on lawyers, economists, and other "experts" who lobby the PUC and the Legislature to raise your rates. Guess who pays for these experts? You do.

CUB has to pay its own way. To do that, we depend upon regular, generous support from concerned ratepayers like you. 80% of our budget comes from individuals, and not a single dime comes from tax dollars.

That's why I'm writing you today. I invite you to join CUB with a gift of \$25, \$35, or even \$50. You'll get a free subscription to our quarterly newsletter, The Bear Facts, to keep you informed and up-to-date.

More importantly, your gift will help us fight for a future all of us can afford. So let me hear from you today!

Sincerely,



Bob Jenks
Executive Director & Charter CUB Member

P.S. You can't afford to ignore your utilities. Join CUB today with your gift of \$25, \$35, or even \$50, so I can continue to fight them on your behalf.

Join before September 30th, and I'll send you a free 15-page brochure from the National Consumer League to help you get the most out of your phone service.