

RON WYDEN
OREGON

CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE ON
FINANCE

221 DIRKSEN SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
(202) 224-5244

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3703

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COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE
JOINT COMMITTEE ON TAXATION

November 25, 2024

Maria Pope
President & CEO
Portland General Electric
121 SW Salmon St.
Portland, OR 97204

Dear Ms. Pope,

According to news reports, thousands of Portland General Electric customers have seen their electric bills go up by more than 40% since 2021 – a rate that is demanding for many families and small business owners in the area. For folks that are walking an economic tightrope, balancing food and medicine bills with electricity prices, the rising prices are unsustainable. My office is getting letters of concern that rising electricity rates are burdensome and make the cost of paying for basic necessities unaffordable. In addition, news sources have reported that the number of electricity service shutoffs for non-payment have increased for PGE, further demonstrating the vulnerability of many customers facing rising electricity prices. While I can appreciate the work that PGE is doing to modernize and strengthen the power grid, it is concerning to see the cost of electricity rise at this rate in such a short timeframe.

In an effort to better understand these problems and work with you on solutions to ensure that Oregonians have access to an affordable, reliable, and resilient power supply, I request the following information be provided to my/our office(s) within the next 30 days:

1. Please provide a description of the rate increases that have been approved by the PUC for each of the last five years, where applicable. If rate increases have differed between sectors, please provide those details as well.
2. Please share what specific steps PGE is taking to limit cost increases primarily to the sectors where demand has increased the most in the last five years. If there is a discrepancy (for example, if the majority of load growth has been to service the industrial sector, but cost increases have disproportionately impacted the residential sector), please explain why.

911 NE 11TH AVENUE
SUITE 630
PORTLAND, OR 97232
(503) 326-7525

405 EAST 8TH AVE
SUITE 2020
EUGENE, OR 97401
(541) 431-0229

SAC ANNEX BUILDING
105 FIR ST
SUITE 201
LA GRANDE, OR 97850
(541) 962-7691

U.S. COURTHOUSE
310 WEST 6TH ST
ROOM 118
MEDFORD, OR 97501
(541) 858-5122

THE JAMISON BUILDING
131 NW HAWTHORNE AVE
SUITE 107
BEND, OR 97701
(541) 330-9142

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SUITE 285
SALEM, OR 97301
(503) 589-4555

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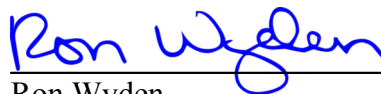
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3. Please provide a description of changes in PGE's load growth over the last five years, detailing the breakdown between the residential, commercial, and industrial sectors.
4. Please provide details regarding your residential, commercial and industrial energy efficiency efforts. How successful have these programs been? What changes are being made to improve them? How does PGE plan to continue investing in these programs to keep energy costs low for all of its customers?
5. Please provide a description of the number of residential customers that have been disconnected from power for each of the last five years, and the steps that PGE is taking to reduce that number as costs continue to rise.
6. Please provide details regarding the total amount of federal funds, including through tax incentives, that PGE has received over each of the last five years. How are those funds being used to reduce costs for consumers?
7. My energy tax credits in the Inflation Reduction Act have supported PGE and utilities across the country by covering up to 30% of the cost of new clean energy installations. Can you please describe what factors are driving the increased costs you are experiencing that are not supported by those credits?

Thank you for your cooperation on this issue, and I look forward to our continued partnership in ensuring that all Oregonians have access to an affordable, reliable, and resilient power supply.

Sincerely,



Ron Wyden
United States Senator

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