

Benefit Corporations for Good is a company dedicated to supporting purpose driven small businesses. We certify businesses that have been incorporated as Benefit Companies . Currently we have certified over 65 small businesses from 24 cities throughout the state of Oregon.

These include professional services, retail, small high tech companies, BIPOC businesses and manufacturing. We serve as an advocate for their issues and needs as they practice the principles and values of Benefit Companies.

As we testified in 2021 and now considering 2022, these businesses have struggled with the realities of COVID-19 but most have survived. As they strive to stay in business, their revenues have often declined, while many of their expenses such as utilities payments remain.

Given this scenario, rate hikes will create an additional negative impact to these small businesses. We hope the Commission understands the consequences of rate hikes on small companies that are already struggling. Access to affordable and stable electricity sources are crucial to the viability and sustainability of most, if not all, small businesses.

Benefit Corporations for Good supports Small Business Utility Advocates' (SBUA) recommendation for a PUC staff workshop with stakeholders exclusively on the impact of COVID-19 on small commercial customers. We believe there is concrete data on the impact of COVID-19 on disconnections and arrearages for small commercial customers.

The recommendation of SBUA would facilitate valuable insights and foster an important discussion on these matters via workshops with stakeholders and utilities to further explore commercial costs. In this way the Commission will address the impact of COVID-19 from all perspectives, as opposed to only focusing on residential. We appreciate your consideration on this important matter.

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