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June 10, 2019

Senator Kathleen Taylor
Representative Jeff Reardon
Co-Chairs, Natural Resources Subcommittee, Joint Committee on Ways & Means

Re: SB 5545 ODOE Budget

Dear Co-Chairs Taylor and Reardon and Members of the Joint Subcommittee:

NW Natural serves two million Oregonians and is celebrating 160 years as an Oregon-based and headquartered company. **We support SB 5545 as amended by the -1s, the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) proposed budget for 2019-2021.**

NW Natural appreciates the expertise at ODOE on the important area of energy – something that touches the life of every Oregonian. We have worked closely over the years with ODOE on a myriad of issues, most recently studying Oregon’s potential for Renewable Natural Gas (RNG). RNG – which comes from waste methane at wastewater treatment plants, dairy digesters, and landfills as well as new forms of energy (like hydrogen to store excess electricity) – is a key component of NW Natural’s Low-Carbon Pathway. Procurement of RNG has a positive impact on our environment and the people that live and work in Oregon.

Many areas within ODOE’s operations provide key, impartial, and fair support to our state in areas such as: energy facilities siting, oversight for the Hanford Nuclear Facility, and services to help Oregonians heat and cool their residences and businesses. ODOE provides a critical role for Oregon’s energy providers to achieve our state’s energy policy goals.

NW Natural urges your support for the ODOE Budget as proposed in the -1 amendment to SB 5545.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kathryn M. Williams'.

Kathryn M. Williams
VP, Public Affairs
NW Natural