



February 2, 2021

Senate Committee on Energy and Environment

RE: PPGA Comments on SB 314

Dear Chair Beyer and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide some feedback on SB 314 which would authorize the Public Utility Commission to allow electric and natural gas utilities to recover costs for electric vehicle investments from all retail ratepayers.

The Pacific Propane Gas Association (PPGA) is the state trade association representing Oregon's propane industry. Our membership includes small multi-generational family businesses and large corporations engaged in the retail marketing of propane gas to Oregonians. PPGA members provide propane to the residential, commercial, agricultural, transportation and industrial markets throughout Oregon.

Propane Autogas is a clean-burning alternative fuel that has been used for decades to power light-, medium-, and heavy-duty propane vehicles. Interest in propane as an alternative transportation fuel stems from its domestic availability, high-energy density, clean-burning qualities, and relatively low cost. Propane Autogas is the world's third most common transportation fuel, behind gasoline and diesel.

While we appreciate the narrow scope of the legislation, in general PPGA is concerned this legislation gives electric and natural gas utilities an unfair advantage in the alternative fuels marketplace by allowing utilities to charge all retail ratepayers for infrastructure many of these ratepayers will be unlikely to utilize. For example, this legislation could result in the companies and municipalities that have chosen propane Autogas to now have to pay increased electric or natural gas rates to fund vehicle infrastructure they will not utilize. Additionally, our members who are often retail utility customers may have to pay higher rates for to fund infrastructure they directly compete against.

In comparison the propane industry must work with customers who will utilize the benefits of propane Autogas to pay for the associated costs of infrastructure. We cannot, nor should we be able to, spread infrastructure costs of one retail customer to all our other retail customers.

**PPGA strongly supports the adoption of electric vehicle infrastructure and alternative fuel infrastructure but believes policies to achieve increased adoption of alternative fuel vehicles should be fair and fuel agnostic. Policies that give one energy source an unfair advantage over other energy sources inadvertently jeopardizes the economic viability of other fuel sources that have made investments to promote adoption of other clean fuels.**

Thank you for allowing us to share our feedback on this legislation. We would welcome the opportunity to engage in policy efforts that will result in increased infrastructure for all alternative fuels.

Matt Solak  
PPGA Executive Director  
[matt@kdafirm.com](mailto:matt@kdafirm.com)  
844.585.4940

Lana Butterfield  
PPGA Oregon Lobbyist  
[lanab@teleport.com](mailto:lanab@teleport.com)  
503-819-5800