

Utility Consumer Protection Bill (HB 3152)

Presentation to House Committee on
Climate, Energy, and Environment

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What HB 3152 does

- Empowers the Public Utility Commission to continue its work to ensure Oregon's regulated utility system is on track to meet state climate goals and regulations
- Helps reduce Oregonian's utility bills by ensuring households no longer pay to subsidize others' new gas hookups and incentives for new gas appliances.

Note: With a forthcoming amendment, this would not apply to low-income energy efficiency programs

Individuals can still choose to have gas appliances.

Developers and other businesses can still choose to connect new buildings to the gas system.

This is about who pays for these subsidies.

Utility customers should not be on the hook for these expenses.

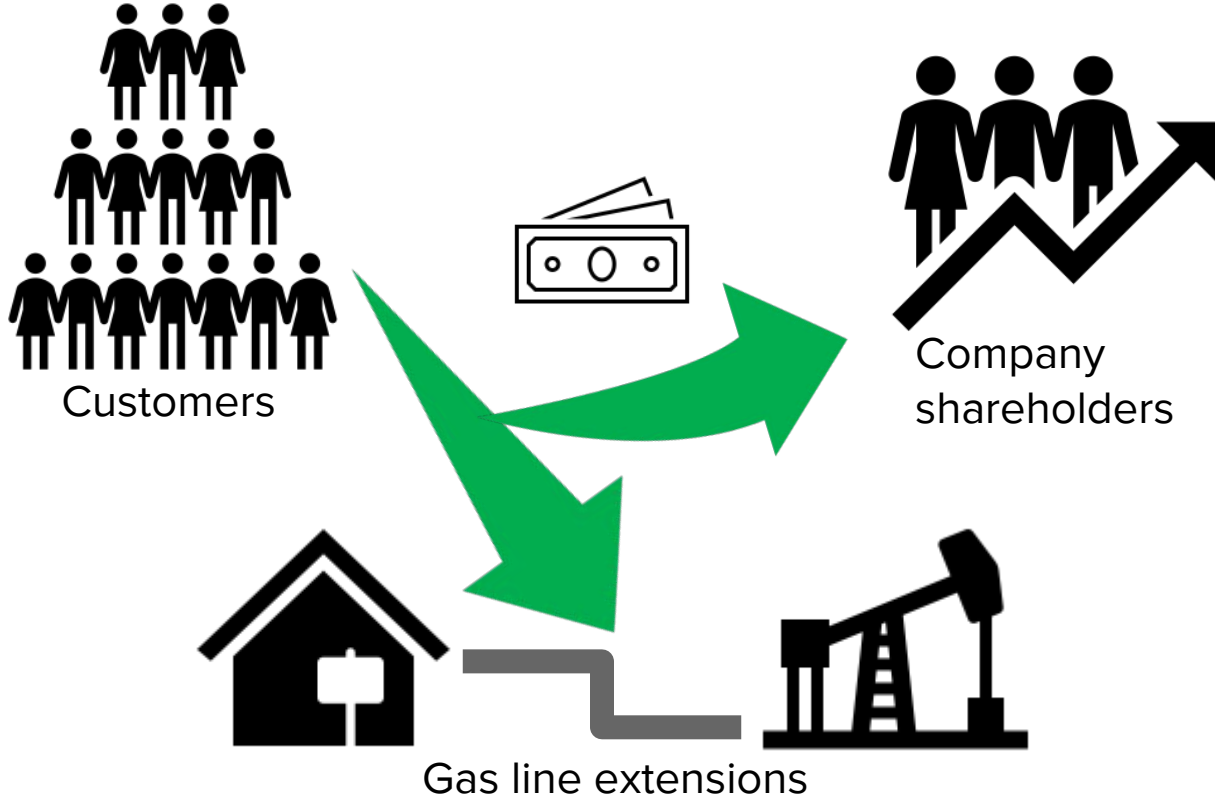
Oregon households currently pay
\$61,000,000 per year in their gas bills to
subsidize new gas hookups

→ **\$75 per customer every year**

About half of this goes to directly to
shareholder profits for gas utilities.

Without HB 3152

Who pays for it?

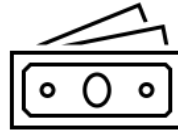


Without HB 3152

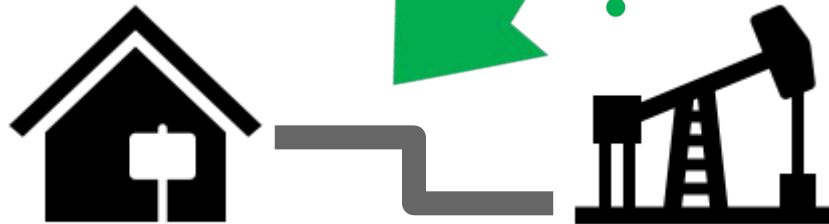
Who pays for it?



Customers



Company
shareholders



Gas line extensions

Gas utilities can choose to subsidize new gas hook-ups themselves

Oregon's natural gas customers will see bill hikes starting in November



By **Monica Samayoa** (OPB)

Oct. 27, 2022 5:02 p.m. **Updated:** Oct. 27, 2022 5:18 p.m.

Oregonians who depend on natural gas for their homes will see a spike in their bills, starting next month.

The Oregon Public Utility Commission increased rates by at least 18% for NW Natural, Cascade Gas and Avista Utilities customers. Officials at the PUC said high prices for natural gas and supply issues that the commodity is facing worldwide are contributing to the rate hikes approved for the investor-owned utilities it regulates.

This is already starting to happen - but not fast enough to adequately protect customers

- In 2021, Washington's utility regulator required major utilities Avista and Puget Sound Energy to eliminate their gas line extension allowances by January 1, 2025
- California is ending gas line extension allowances this June, saving customers more than \$164 million annually
- In 2022, Oregon PUC ordered NW Natural's line extension allowance be reduced about half by 2025, finding "no or negligible economic benefit being brought to the existing system from the addition of new customers"

Thank you!
Questions?

