



March 1, 2023

Chair Marsh, Vice-Chairs Levy and Levy, and Members of the Committee,

**Re: Support for HB 3152**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

My name is Nick Caleb and I am the Climate and Energy Attorney with Breach Collective, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit based in Eugene and Portland. Breach Collective partners with communities on the front lines of the climate crisis to advance justice through locally-driven campaigns rooted in the power of grassroots organizing, legal advocacy, and human stories.

We support HB 3152 because it gives subtle, but important direction to the Public Utility Commission (PUC) to more effectively reach Oregon's greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals and protect residential utility customers from the risks of stranded fossil fuel assets and increases in energy burden.

Continuing to subsidize the expansion of the methane gas system during a climate emergency is a form of structural climate denial. In addition to adding carbon emissions to the atmosphere (and exposing greater numbers of Oregonians to the human health risks of indoor gas combustion), gas ratepayers stand to be on the hook for higher rates and stranded assets as the clean energy transition accelerates.

In 2018, in response to Senate Bill 978, the (PUC) created a process to identify major issues for the agency to consider in the future. After months of stakeholder input and vibrant discussions, there was a strong consensus that the PUC needed to focus on climate and equity. Unfortunately, these recommendations were not responded to with proactive legislation. HB 3152 *is* responsive to this process and the many changes to our state's energy economy since 2018 by providing some important direction to protect ratepayers. HB 3152's changes are subtle, but very important for a just clean energy transition.

We encourage you to pass HB 3152 out of committee. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Nick Caleb

Climate and Energy Attorney, Breach Collective