

Submitter: Brian Benton

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure: HB3152

House Committee 3152,

Dear Committee members, my wife and I live in an older home in Medford and it's only heat source is a free standing Natural Gas stove. If you eliminate Natural Gas as an option for us or cause the price to rise drastically for Natural Gas you will harm us and many others in Oregon who heat or cook using Natural Gas.

I respectfully ask you to oppose HB 3152.

This bill will eliminate my option to choose the type of energy I want in my home by eliminating a critical source of funding for the replacement of natural gas appliances.

The bill will effectively change the mission of the Energy Trust of Oregon, who delegates these funds to low-income communities, from fuel-agnostic, energy-efficiency provider to electric-only by prohibiting ratepayer money from going to fossil fuel efficiency measures.

Natural gas is a critical energy source for many Oregonians and allows us to maintain a quality of life. By eliminating the use of ratepayer dollars for line extensions, the legislature is making it harder for natural gas to remain affordable and dependable for many Oregonians - including our most vulnerable communities throughout the state - and displaces hundreds of good quality careers that depend on the industry for jobs.

Lastly, the bill delegates very broad powers to the PUC to do whatever it is they must do to reach climate targets. The PUC is able to do the more robust work needed to properly investigate, justify and implement energy planning proposals. Their role is already well-defined and they do not need anymore powers than they already have to reach out climate goals for our great State of Oregon.

Thank you for your time and please vote no on HB 3152 (a bill that threatens energy choice and ignores equitable climate outcomes). Brian Benton