

Submitter: LaJuana Decker

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure: HB3152

I stand in strong opposition to HB 3152.

Despite our rich sources of renewable energy, Oregon is on the brink of a self-induced energy crisis. The Pacific Northwest Utilities Conference Committee (PNUCC) predicts growing shortages of reliable electricity in our area for at least the next decade. The issue is complex, and simple solutions are doomed to fail. We've removed dams that supplied much of our energy. We shut off most of our coal energy sources. Now some among us want to remove natural gas options that replaced those coal plants with cleaner energy. To date we have no reliable ways to replace all the natural gas we are currently using to supply our energy needs.

Oregonians need reliable energy in both their homes and their businesses. Restricting the available sources of energy without adequate replacement sources is a recipe for economic and social crisis. We're already facing a dire shortage of homes, especially for lower income residents. Restricting the energy choices available to them adds one more barrier to home ownership. Likewise small businesses are harmed when their energy choices are limited.

We have seen what happened in California where the scheduled closure of natural gas plants and at least one nuclear plant are being re-examined following rolling blackouts that left Californians powerless. Please don't follow California into the dark through well-meaning, but impractical regulations like those that would result from HB3152.

Do not leave Oregonians in the dark with the reckless regulations that would come from HB3152.

LaJuana Decker