

Submitter: Brad Reed

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure: HB3152

Chair Marsh, Vice-Chairs Levy and Levy, and members of the committee,

I'm writing in support of HB 3152. I am a methane gas utility customer and the money from bills I pay for gas service should not go to making risky, ill-advised investments in growing the gas system. Methane gas is a fossil fuel and its use fuels worsening wildfires, deadly heatwaves, and extreme storms. As our state and country rightfully makes policy to shift away from fossil fuels in favor of clean energy, like wind and solar, the continued expansion of the gas system and subsidies for inferior appliances are not only a risk to our way of life, but a huge economic risk that should not be forcefully placed on rate payers. If for-profit companies like NW Natural Gas want to continue investing in a system that is not complimentary with a livable future or the direction of the energy industry, then those costs should be borne by Wall Street shareholders and the corporation itself.

It is unethical to ask customers to subsidize the continued hooking up of new people to the gas system when so many already face high bills for methane gas, which is rapidly getting more expensive. Piling on the stranded cost of pipelines and appliances for decades to come, knowing what we already know today about the high cost of fuel and direction the energy industry is headed, is reckless.

Without significant changes in strategy, the fossil fuel companies serving methane gas to Oregonians will not reduce their climate pollution fast enough to meet targets set out to protect us by lowering planet-heating gasses. Their current plans are unrealistic and expensive. Rate payers like me must be protected from these poor corporate strategies and investments.

I urge you to support HB 3152 to protect rate payers and empower utility regulators to be more proactive in ensuring utility investments are consistent with climate regulations and programs.

Sincerely,

Brad Reed
Milwaukie, OR