

Submitter: Kelly Cole

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure: HB3152

I didn't realize how important natural gas is to my life and well being until February of 2021. The week of Valentines day the Portland Metro area got slammed with a snow storm and my area of Oregon City experienced a once-in-a-lifetime ice storm. Sleet rained down and froze for two days leaving inches of ice over everything including the barren winter trees. The massive weight of the ice on the trees lead to an unprecedented amount of damage to the trees and power lines underneath the branches. Oregon City was without power for 3 days but during those three days without power my family and I were warmed our natural gas fireplace. We were able to cook on our natural gas stove top and have hot showers with our gas furnace. We were able to open our home to near by friends who spent multiple days warm and fed. Our family who live in Newberg were able to travel to our house and shower after being without water for five days. Our friends in Mulino were able to do the same and stay for a hot meal. This was only possible because we have natural gas. I urge lawmakers to look at the benefits natural gas can have in emergency situations.