

Submitter: Laurie Dougherty

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure: HB3152

Chair Marsh, Vice-Chairs Levy and Levy,

My name is Laurie Dougherty, I live in Salem. I support HB 3152. As a long-time activist and advocate for climate justice, I appreciate the addition of climate to the title of this committee. This designation gives clear recognition to the gravity of the climate crisis.

The Public Utilities Commission (PUC), like all state agencies, is obligated to take measures within its purview to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Oregon. The PUC is also obligated to take measures that serve the best interests of utility rate payers. HB 3152 brings these obligations into the same framework. Due to policy implementation, technology deployment and personal choice, fossil fuel use is in decline. As fewer natural gas customers remain, the burden of subsidizing the extension of gas pipelines and related infrastructure should not fall on those customers. Costs of new natural gas infrastructure should be borne by developers who expect to profit from new development. That those costs should not be subsidized by existing rate-payers is an equity issue. That those cost should not be subsidized at all is a climate issue. The PUC is the appropriate agency to ensure that equity in cost allocation is maintained and that greenhouse gas emissions from natural gas are not subsidized.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.