

Submitter: Kevin Hoar

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure: HB3152

Kevin Hoar Testimony Opposing House Bill 3152

I wish to voice my opposition to House Bill 3152. Certainly, one of the most impactful programs that has helped lower-income Oregonians afford to upgrade to higher efficiency natural gas heating, cooking, water heating, and fireplace equipment while dramatically reducing carbon emissions has been the credits issued by the Energy Trust of Oregon. This bill promises to terminate this very successful and much-needed program. This must not happen at a time that inflation is decimating the budgets of working families.

These efficient natural gas units often replace electric baseboard or resistance units for heating, are very inefficient, and inflict a major load on our ever more burdened electrical infrastructure while being more expensive and posing a greater fire danger than other forms of heating. They also suck at heating homes. According to the Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance, nearly 75% of multifamily dwellings use these electric baseboard or resistance units for heating. These energy trust incentives are helping all of these dwellings to address all of these problems while producing happier residents.

Natural Gas is abundant and is supplied by an excellent infrastructure that one day soon will be supplying renewable Natural Gas and, eventually, Green Hydrogen. This is not the time to stop and reverse all the progress our state has made before cleaner forms of gas can be phased into a public that really appreciates the high-quality heat, cooking, hot water, etc., courtesy of the appliances that Energy Trust incentivizes to use the most efficient versions available on the market.

Therefore, I urge you and your colleagues in the state legislature to vote against House Bill 3152 and preserve the affordable, cleaner, and more desirable living standard being achieved thanks to the Energy Trust incentives, especially for our state's struggling working families.