

Chair Marsh, Co-Vice Chairs Levy, My Name is Dreng Espelien and I am here to testify in opposition to HB 3152.

I am a Journeyman Heat and Frost Insulator and member of Local Union # 36. I completed a four-year registered apprenticeship program and have worked in the Trade for 25 years. Our union is an affiliate trade union of the Oregon State Building and Construction Trades Council.

I too am concerned about climate change and what it is doing to our state and planet. However, limited existing natural gas resources will only punish the people who can't afford to make these costly transitions.

I would like to share with you some of the concerns that I have related to HB 3152.

- The bill threatens quality career opportunities, especially as it relates to new apprentices joining the labor market. This bill would prohibit the innovation of new jobs by restricting the ability to upgrade energy infrastructure to be more efficient.
- The bill affects low-income and vulnerable families the most by removing their ability to improve their energy efficiency utilizing the existing natural gas infrastructure.
- The bill denies low-income families the energy choice available to wealthier families who can afford new equipment without financial incentives.
- The bill prohibits taxpayer dollars from being used for gas line extensions, which will increase utility costs for everyone.
- The bill changes the mission of the Oregon PUC from an economic regulator to an environmental regulator.

Like I stated at the beginning of my testimony, I have been a member of Heat and Frost Insulators Local Union # 36 for 25 years and I am deeply concerned with the unintended consequences of HB 3152. I ask you to please vote No on this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.