

Submitter: Perrone Alec

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure: SB871

Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Findley, and members of the committee, my name is Alec Perrone, community worker, advocate, and southern Oregon resident. I live in a small town called Rogue River, just east of Grants Pass. I have lived in many different living situations, but always in rural spaces. Because of this, my family has used various forms of energy for heating our stoves, water, and homes, including methane “natural” gas). This has health risks, unexpected costs, and can be unreliable in extreme weather—and downright dangerous during wildfire season. Living outside of an urban environment means hard work, and we get by how we can. But in southern Oregon, we have been lucky to see new forms of reliable energy production and storage being offered. Although it is still out of reach for many Oregonians, solar and wind power offerings are available, and the cost of renewable electricity is falling. Now it’s time to move away from gas in our homes, and towards electric heat pumps. Gas is more expensive than we can afford and the costs are skyrocketing. NW Natural Gas— the largest fossil fuel company in Oregon— increased rates more than 40% in 13 months. Oregon needs a lot more affordable housing, and other buildings like schools and hospitals, for our growing population. These should all be built smart from the start, healthier and more resilient against growing climate harms. Our first step should be to stop making the problem worse. It’s more affordable to build all-electric with heat pumps, and more affordable to live and work in homes and buildings that waste less energy.

I’m in support of SB 868, 869, 870, and 871 because I support cleaner and above all, healthier homes. The use of natural gas is not only bad for the environment and our wallets, but it is also unhealthy and just downright yucky. Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts, I hope they are considered moving forward.

Alec Perrone
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