

Submitter: Kristi Kimball

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure: HB2713

Honorable Committee Members,

My name is Kristi Kimball. I live in Central Oregon (in Bend), and I am writing to express my strong support for HB2713 - the Community Right to Electrify.

This issue matters to me because I have children; I care about the future, not just the short-term; and I am part of multiple organizations in my community (The Environmental Center, Citizens Climate Lobby, Climate Reality Project, 350 Deschutes and Neighbors For Climate Action) that are all working hard to electrify our homes and buildings. Local communities should be allowed to take bold action to reduce our carbon emissions, even if the fossil fuel companies don't like it. We need climate action to safeguard our future!

There are many local communities across the state of Oregon that want to move faster toward electrification and decarbonization, as demonstrated by the long list of cities that supported the Reach Code bill in recent years. The state has set ambitious goals for shifting to 100% renewable energy in our electric grid by 2040, but this shift won't help as much as intended if our homes and buildings are still hooked up to methane gas. State law should allow local governments to move faster toward home and community electrification because it is good for public health; it creates new clean energy jobs; it increases energy efficiency and protects people from the rising prices of fossil fuel energy; and it reduces our carbon emissions to help ensure a livable future for everyone.