

Submitter: Evelyn Whitlock
On Behalf Of: Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility
Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1143

Thank you for the opportunity to support this important bill directing PUC to establish a pilot program for natural gas companies in Oregon to bring thermal energy heating and cooling services to their customers. Numerous states including our neighbor to the north, Washington, have passed enabling legislation or are participating in pilots. Thermal energy networks offer a forward-looking concept to provide clean, efficient energy that doesn't overtax our electrical grid or introduce dangerous approaches like hydrogen blending into home and business heating systems. This approach is supported by climate advocates, trades, and gas utilities alike, making it a rare opportunity for progress in meeting our decarbonization and energy efficiency goals that is broadly acceptable. I applaud your leadership in bringing this to the legislature and hope you will work to pass it out of committee and through the process into law. Well done!