

Submitter: Jane Stackhouse
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1143

Chair Sollman, Vice Chair Brock Smith and members of the Senate Committee on Energy and the Environment
In Support of SB 1143
March 18, 2025

My name is Jane Stackhouse. I am a trained Climate Reality Project Leader and a member of Network (TEN) Pilot Program. This program will encourage our natural methane gas utilities to explore a sustainable, well tested method for heating and cooling homes and businesses.

I converted my owner-occupied duplex from gas to electric heat pump technology in 2020. Since that time, two of my neighbors have done the same. This positive climate action results in a loss of customers for NW Natural Gas. Our heat pumps provide heating and cooling using only electricity. I asked NW Natural Gas to cut my service as the street. As more individuals switch, the natural gas companies will lose customers. Conversion to electric heat pumps is not an option of many, especially those customers who already face an energy burden.

NW Natural Gas must be aware of the Thermal Energy Networks that are in use in other areas but they persist with the notion of adding hydrogen to their gas line and maintaining their current business model of reselling expensive gas to customers through a system of aging pipes. Apparently, they need an incentive in the form of SB 1143.

I predict the following positive outcomes if our gas utilities move to a TEN model of energy delivery and I am pleased to see that the requirements for the pilot project will test my hypotheses. Yet another reason to support this bill.

I believe we will see the following benefits.

1. Reduce carbon emissions without resorting to adding explosive hydrogen to the mix of gas running under our streets and into our homes. Improving safety and lowering potential natural gas company liability.
2. Natural gas companies will gain control over when and where to convert gas service to heat pump technology, TENs, rather than leaving this to individual customers who ask to be cut off at the street.
3. They will provide a long-term heating and cooling service to their customers that does not require purchasing methane gas from suppliers.
4. The companies can maintain their workforce, including pipefitters, with minimal skill upgrades. The heat transfer solutions (usually water) run through underground

pipes

5. Customers benefit with clean heating and cooling for home and business while paying monthly fees to their gas utility that provided and maintains the TEN.

In the Vermont <https://www.vctn.org/> example the same company provided gas and electric. In Oregon, because these utilities are separate, there will need for negotiations around sharing the benefits of TENs among the electric and gas companies and their customers. I am pleased to see working with the electric utilities included in this bill.

Please vote Yes and with a do pass recommendation on SB 1143.