

Dear Committee on Energy and Environment,

I am writing in support of SB 1143 to undertake a pilot project for natural gas companies to develop a thermal energy network. Thermal heat pumps have the potential to deliver heating and cooling at more efficiently and with fewer carbon dioxide emissions than is currently possible, so it appears to me to be both sensible and wise to experiment with this option. The state of Washington has already adopted a similar program, and some Oregon natural gas companies, such as NW Natural, operate in Washington and are thus now beginning such a pilot project in Vancouver. I think it would be remiss of Oregon not to follow suit. I believe that anything we can do to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate climate change is a gift to future generations, and I therefore strongly support this measure.

Thank you for your consideration.

Gary Reiness