
March 19, 2025

Senate Energy and Environment Committee
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St NE, Hearing Room C
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Senate Bill 1143

Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Brock Smith, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written comments on behalf of the Northwest Gas Association (NWGA). The NWGA represents the three natural gas utilities and two transmission pipelines that provide warmth and comfort to 2 million Oregon residents, as well as heat and productive energy to more than 85,000 Oregon businesses, institutions, and industries.

NWGA is pleased to express its support for SB 1143 on behalf of our member utilities serving communities across Oregon. This forward-looking legislation would enable natural gas utilities to pilot Thermal Energy Networks (TENs) – an emerging approach to decarbonized heating and cooling that aligns with Oregon's clean energy objectives.

Our members are committed to decarbonizing their energy systems and are actively exploring solutions that meet climate goals while continuing to safely deliver affordable and reliable energy. In neighboring Washington state, following the passage of [HB 2131](#), several of our member utilities are identifying potential TENs projects to serve communities across their service areas. Legislation like SB 1143 would provide Oregon's natural gas utilities with the tools and regulatory support needed to begin similar work here – advancing the state's climate goals through utility-led innovation.

For these reasons, NWGA urges your support for SB 1143.

Thank you,

Natasha Jackson
Director of State Affairs