

March 26, 2025

Senate Committee on Rules
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St NE, Hearing Room C
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Senate Joint Resolution 28

Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Bonham, 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 Oregon's three natural gas utilities and two transmission pipelines, which collectively provide warmth and comfort to 2 million residents and supply reliable energy to more than 85,000 businesses, institutions, and industries across the state. Our members are highly regulated entities that operate within a complex framework of environmental and climate-related regulations.

We appreciate and support Oregon's environmental goals and remain committed to decarbonization. However, we have serious concerns about SJR 28 and the proposed -1 amendment. The language in this measure is overly broad and subjective, with the potential to cause significant harm – not only to our industry, but to many others throughout Oregon.

One of our primary concerns is the provision that allows for legal action based on a mere "threat of harm" to the environment. Even when our members are in full compliance with existing state laws and regulations, such vague language could expose them to costly and prolonged litigation. It also risks delaying or derailing clean energy projects that are critical to meeting Oregon's climate goals.

Moreover, this legislation could have serious fiscal implications for the state. It opens the door for taxpayer-funded litigation in response to virtually any project or program that someone may disagree with – including those initiated by the state itself.

For these reasons, the NWGA respectfully urges a "no" vote on SJR 28.

Thank you,

Natasha Jackson
Director of State Affairs