



April 27, 2015

Clackamas County Board of Commissioners
Policy Position
SB 32: Relating to natural gas

Clackamas County supports SB 32: The Board of County Commissioners supports SB 32, which directs the Public Utility Commission to form a work group to study methods by which a public utility that furnishes natural gas may expand service to areas that do not have access to natural gas.

Clackamas County was instrumental in assisting the City of Estacada in expanding its Urban Growth Boundary, expanding its City limits, and working with state agencies and private property owners to certify 107 acres of industrial land through Business Oregon's Industrial Site Certification Program. This land has a 180-day construction-ready guarantee and is considered by Clackamas County to be a Strategically Significant Employment Land site.

As Clackamas County and the City of Estacada work to attract new business, infrastructure is a critical component that will allow us to remain competitive. The availability of natural gas can be a decision point for businesses wanting to locate in Estacada, including such industries as food processing and general manufacturing. However, the cost of connecting to the closest main line is currently estimated at approximately \$13M. Forming a Public Utility Commission work group to study methods for expanding service to stranded communities is the first step toward serving Estacada and similar cities, and thus a strong step toward job creation for rural communities.

We urge a “yes” vote for SB 32. In addition, the County respectfully requests that the committee expand the membership of the work group to include a representative of a rural county and a representative of a rural city that do not currently have access to natural gas.

Please contact Chris Lyons at clyons@clackamas.us for more information.