



## CITY OF ESTACADA

*"Close to everything, but away from it all"*

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Presented to: House Energy & Environment Committee

Presented by:

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The City of Estacada supports Senate Bill 32.

Estacada, Oregon is located next to Mt Hood National Forest and has a population just shy of 3,000. 7 years ago, Estacada's lumber mill closed. Over the past 7 years the City's annual median household income declined by 12%. Recognizing that quality of life has been declining, Estacada's leadership made economic development its highest priority. However, not having natural gas service thwarts the City's business attraction efforts and prevents Estacada's existing businesses from expanding their operations.

*How does lack of natural gas service inhibit local companies from expanding in Estacada?* Northwest Technologies was founded in Estacada and is its second largest employer with over 75 full-time employees. It specializes in engineering and manufacturing metal products. As a direct result of not being served by natural gas, it set up a second location twenty minutes away where it completes powder coating; its operations and workforce are divided and the City lost approximately 15 jobs.

*How does not having natural gas service hinder business attraction efforts?* 107 acres of Estacada's industrial land is certified by Business Oregon for food processing and general manufacturing. However, natural gas is a service essential for most facilities in these industries. Thus, facilities that would otherwise be a good fit for Estacada's land, workforce, and infrastructure will not consider locating the Estacada area.

Forming a Public Utility Commission work group to study methods for expanding service to unserved communities may be the first step toward serving Estacada and similar Cities, and thus a strong step toward job creation for rural communities across the state. Estacada is committed to facilitating jobs, which will increase residents' abilities to support their families, but we need your assistance with this effort. Please support Senate Bill 32.