



Climate Solutions

PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS TO GLOBAL WARMING

February 6, 2019

Senator Michael Dembrow, Chair
Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
Oregon State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Re: SB 98

Chair Dembrow and Members of the Committee,

We write in support of **SB 98**. We oppose continued reliance on fossil fuels, including conventional natural gas, and support this first attempt to shift towards renewable natural gas. If Oregon and the nation are going to combat the worst impacts of climate change, we need to leave fossil fuels in the ground.

Climate Solutions is a regional non-profit working to accelerate practical and profitable solutions to global warming. For more than 15 years, Climate Solutions has been working to implement energy efficiency, renewable energy, and carbon reduction policies that demonstrate that clean energy and broadly shared economic prosperity go hand-in-hand.

SB 98 would overcome an existing regulatory hurdle at the Oregon Public Utility Commission and allow utilities, at their discretion, to begin to invest in renewable natural gas. The bill reflects Oregon's priorities to combat climate change and wean our economy off fossil fuels. The bill allows utilities to invest up to 5% of its portfolio targets in renewable natural gas such as methane capture at dairy digesters and wastewater treatment facilities, and it increases the percentage by an additional 5% every five years.

Allowing this shift to renewable natural gas sends an important signal to Oregon's natural gas utilities and distributors that Oregon is not interested in expanding its reliance on traditional high GHG producing natural gas. Instead, we need to develop alternatives such as low or even zero GHG producing renewable natural gas and shift to clean sources of electricity.

We urge you to support **SB 98**. Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

David Van't Hof
Policy Consultant, Climate Solutions