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Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 98: Requiring the Public Utility Commission to adopt rules to allow natural gas utilities to recover prudently incurred investments in renewable natural gas.

Senate Environment and Natural Resources

Submitted by: Catherine Macdonald, Oregon Climate Policy Director, The Nature Conservancy

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **support of Senate Bill 98**.

The Nature Conservancy is a science-based and non-partisan conservation organization. Our mission is to protect the lands and waters on which all life depends. The organization was incorporated in Oregon in 1961, and **today we have over 70,000 supporters statewide with members in every county in Oregon.** Our staff, based in communities across the state, work collaboratively with tribes, government agencies, elected officials, private landowners, businesses, and natural resource stakeholders to develop innovative solutions to the major challenges facing people and nature.

Climate change is the number one threat to people and nature. Impacts are already being seen in Oregon and across the world. The atmosphere is getting hotter; our oceans are becoming increasingly acidic; glaciers are melting; and fire seasons are getting longer and more intense. These changes will have profound impacts on fish and wildlife as well as the health and prosperity of Oregon businesses and communities without swift action. It is critical that we reduce greenhouse gas emissions by shifting to renewable energy sources. Capturing greenhouse gases from landfills, dairies, and wastewater treatment plants and putting it to use to meet our energy demands should be part of our solution to climate change.

The Oregon Department of Energy's (ODOE) Biogas and Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) Report to the Legislature estimates that there may be as much as 50 billion cubic feet (BCF) of RNG in Oregon. The report identified several barriers to utilizing this source of energy. **Senate Bill 98 can play an important role in beginning to overcome many of the hurdles to expanding the use of RNG in Oregon.**

We urge you to support passage of Senate Bill 98. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

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