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January 30, 2020

The Honorable Michael Dembrow
Chair, Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
900 Court St., NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Senate Bill 1530 – Letter of Support

Dear Chair Dembrow,

The climate imperative we face demands collective action. It's why for the past many months, NW Natural has worked alongside state leaders to advocate for a fair, consistent and effective cap and trade program for all Oregonians.

We believe SB 1530 represents a well-designed carbon pricing program that allows natural gas customers to lead the way into a low-carbon energy future. Our system will continue to have a substantial role in driving down statewide greenhouse gas emissions. That role will increase as we are newly able to invest in renewable natural gas and hydrogen. This legislation provides a portion of revenue from consigned allowances to reduce customer emissions by decarbonizing gas and more efficiently using our product.

Protecting our low-income customers is essential, and we are pleased to see the legislation as currently constructed will leave no one behind. The policy will protect low income natural gas customers from increasing compliance costs by providing free allowances for their emissions.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kathryn Williams'.

Kathryn Williams