



THE BUREAU OF
**PLANNING &
SUSTAINABILITY**

December 1, 2022

Dear Senator Lieber and Representative Marsh,

I am writing to clarify a reference to the [City of Portland's Decarbonization Pathways Analysis](#) in a November 15, 2022 [letter from NW Natural](#) to the Joint Task Force on Resilient Efficient Buildings,

"The City of Portland did similar climate planning analysis to assess the impact of electrification of all new construction and a ban on natural gas; that analysis projected a 1% carbon savings by 2050."

Please consider this additional context regarding the analysis of potential carbon emissions reductions resulting from a natural gas ban on new construction in Portland:

- Although removing natural gas as a heating source for new construction has the potential to reduce overall city-wide carbon emissions by about 1 percent by 2050, the potential reduction within the building sector is more significant,
- Based on modeling of commercial and residential building carbon emissions, the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability (BPS) estimates a 2.3 to 6.6 percent reduction in carbon emissions by 2050 as a result of banning natural gas in new construction depending on the advancement of building energy codes and the extent to which NW Natural replaces fossil natural gas with renewable natural gas, and
- Most of the forecasted growth in Portland's residential sector is expected to be multifamily residential buildings that are typically heated by electricity.

Also, note that the NW Natural letter does not characterize the carbon emission reduction impact of existing building electrification. In 2019, the combustion of natural gas in Portland's buildings accounted for 47 percent of residential carbon emissions and 29 percent of commercial carbon



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emissions. These emissions can be eliminated through existing building electrification assuming that Pacific Power and PGE achieve the State's 100% renewable electricity requirements.

If you have any questions regarding the City of Portland's analyses of carbon emissions, please do not hesitate to email me at vinh.mason@portlandoregon.gov.

Sincerely,

Vinh Mason

Senior Climate Policy Advisor

City of Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability

