



Families For Climate

May 3, 2021

Senator Lee Beyer, Chair
Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
Oregon State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

RE: SB 314

Dear Chair Beyer and Members of the Committee:

Families for Climate is a regional non-profit mobilizing parents, kids, and families to take action for climate justice and a livable planet for all. There is no time to waste in adopting legislation that will rapidly help our state make the transition to a carbon-light future.

As you are aware, transportation contributes 40% of Oregon's greenhouse gas emissions. We feel that a rapid transition to electric vehicle fleets, rural electrification, and urban electric bike charging infrastructure are essential. The first three-quarters of SB 314 make that path straight.

Section 3 — the last 22 lines in this bill related to compressed or renewable natural gas — is irrelevant to the future of Oregon. Fossil fuel technology will not help us reach our greenhouse gas reduction goals¹ and there should be no further discussion about supporting any expansion of methane pipeline infrastructure. A major new United Nations report is set to declare that slashing emissions of methane is far more vital than previously thought.² The report says “. . . that — unless there is significant deployment of unproven technologies capable of pulling greenhouse gases out of the air — **expanding the use of natural gas is incompatible with keeping global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.**” So-called “renewable natural gas” is simply methane produced from sources other than fracking. It is still methane.

Families for Climate respectfully encourages the committee to strike Section 3 from SB 314.

Thank you,

Nora Lehmann, Board Co-President
Noelle Studer-Spevak, Board Secretary

¹ [SB 98](#) sets a goal of 30% RNG in Oregon's natural gas pipelines by 2050.

² <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/04/24/climate/methane-leaks-united-nations.html>