



February 22, 2023

House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment

RE: PPGA Comments on HB 3166

Dear Chair Marsh and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide some feedback on HB 3166.

The Pacific Propane Gas Association (PPGA) is the state trade association representing Oregon's propane industry. Our membership includes small multi-generational family businesses and large businesses engaged in the retail marketing of propane gas to Oregonians. PPGA members provide propane to the residential, commercial, agricultural, transportation and industrial markets throughout Oregon. Currently, users of propane have found value in propane's environmental benefits, versatility, portability and affordability.

The PPGA supports programs that focus on weatherization, adoption of more fuel-efficient appliances and equipment to reduce consumer energy burdens. The PPGA currently offers rebates—funded by the industry—to consumers to help efforts to adopt highly efficient appliances and equipment. We believe this legislation would assist more consumers and help provide more meaningful greenhouse gas emissions reductions if the home rebate program was open to all appliances and non-appliance upgrades and not just limited to electric homes.

A homeowner, who prefers propane or lives in a home where grid or other home upgrades still make utilization of the grant fund cost prohibitive, would be ineligible to participate in the appliance rebate program. We think it is short sighted to keep this homeowner using less efficient appliances instead of allowing them to upgrade their appliances simply because they either choose to or must use a gas appliance. This will only result in higher energy costs and higher greenhouse gas emissions.

Whether a propane boiler, furnace, combi-boiler or tankless water heater, a new propane appliance can offer efficiency levels between 90 – 98%. Installing these appliances would result in meaningful reductions in energy costs and GHG emissions.

We would encourage the committee to adopt an amendment to open the home rebate program to all high efficiency appliances.

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