



February 28, 2023

House Committee on Climate Energy and Environment

RE: Opposition to HB 3152

Chair Marsh, Vice Chairs and Members of the Committee:

The Beaverton Area Chamber of Commerce, with over 500 members representing over 600 businesses in the Beaverton Area is writing today in opposition to HB 3152.. Healthy communities need reliable, affordable energy and the policy outlined in this bill would raise energy costs on both systems for no definable benefit, and sacrifice resiliency that two well maintained energy systems provide.

We believe HB 3152 would effectively discriminate against the most susceptible Oregonians by denying energy choice and eliminating options that more affluent families still have access to. If low-income families desired a natural gas choice, it would no longer be available to them thus penalizing them for their economic circumstances.

The Oregon PUC has traditionally been in the role of an economic regulator, this bill changes that mission to an environmental regulator. That should concern residents relying upon the PUC to focus on regulating the cost and efficiency of utilities in Oregon. We urge the committee to vote no on this bill, preserve energy choice, protect energy resiliency in our region, encourage energy efficiency on both energy systems and focus on fuel neutral policies to achieve greenhouse gas emissions reductions.

We appreciate your thoughtful consideration of this bill and urge you not to promote its passage.

Sincerely,

Alicia M. Bermes  
CEO / President  
Beaverton Area Chamber of Commerce