

Submitter: Brian Morrow

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure: HB3152

I am flabbergasted that my Legislature is considering a bill that could literally be deadly for many Oregonians. It was only three years ago when Western Oregon was hit with a (supposedly) once-in-a-generation snowstorm that knocked out the electrical grid for days here in Douglas County. Natural gas was the only means of heat for my household for five days during the aftermath of "Snowmageddon." And we were the fortunate ones. Many households had no electrical power for seven to fourteen days. Our electric furnace and heat pump were useless as were our electric range, oven, and water heater. Our decorative natural gas fireplace log system was our only source of heat, and that wasn't much but at least it provided some warmth. To completely abandon natural gas in the residential sector as a utility is irresponsible. Particularly when such an action would force every household to be dependent upon an electrical grid that has been proven time and time again to be fallible...even in the best of weather conditions. Or, perhaps you prefer every household going back to burning wood as their alternate heat source? Come on. Use common sense. Do not ban something until a reliable, sustainable, and infallible alternative is available.