



## Testimony on HB 3152 to the House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Chair Marsh, Vice Chairs Levy and Levy, members of the House Climate, Energy and Environment Committee,

My name is Dr. Pat DeLaquil, and I am an energy system modeler and climate policy expert. I live in Gresham, and organize with the Metro Climate Action Team, which is a community of volunteers working to ensure Oregon is a leader in addressing the climate crisis.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in strong support of HB3152, which aims to ensure that the regulations, rules, and orders of the Public Utility Commission align with the state's greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals and do not impede the timely and equitable implementation of these goals.

Oregonians are already seeing the impacts of global warming and its resulting climate disruptions such as increased wildfires, droughts, heat domes, and stronger storms. Today we have proven, cost-effective decarbonization pathways for heating and cooling our homes and buildings based on electrification using existing, efficient heat pump technologies, as identified in multiple reports.<sup>i</sup> In 20 years, we cannot still be burning methane in our homes and also be on target to meet our climate goals. Therefore, stopping investment to expand methane gas infrastructure is a necessary first step to restructuring this public utility sector.

This bill achieves that aim by prohibiting the use of ratepayer funds to provide 1) incentives or subsidies for the purchase or installation of gas appliances or devices for use by residential utility customers, and 2) line extension allowances to subsidize building new gas lines that expand the use of gas in residential and commercial buildings. Customer choice is maintained, but this bill recognizes that it is no longer in the public interest to subsidize expansion of methane gas use. Gas appliances will still be available, and methane utilities may use shareholder funds to subsidize infrastructure investments if they choose.

I strongly believe that it is the duty of the state to protect residential utility customers from the risks of stranded fossil fuel assets, and potential increases in energy burden while achieving the state's greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals.

I urge you to vote in favor of HB3152, and I thank you for your time.

Dr. Pat DeLaquil  
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<sup>i</sup> The 6<sup>th</sup> IPCC Assessment report, the International Energy Agency's recent report on the prospects for reducing global greenhouse gas emissions, and the Oregon Clean Energy Pathways Analysis.