



March 14, 2023

TO: Chair Marsh, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committee

FROM: Brittany Quick-Warner, Executive Director & CEO of Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce

RE: HB 3152 - Oppose Elimination of Natural Gas in Residential Housing

---

I have the honor of serving as president and CEO of the Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce, representing more than 1200 businesses and community members in the Eugene region, and I am writing in **opposition of House Bill 3152.**

Our members have expressed deep concern for the changing climate and are supportive of actions that balance a healthy economy with sustainable practices; however, when it comes to reducing our carbon footprint as a community, research suggests that “banning natural gas” is an action that sounds more impactful than it really would be- and could have significant tradeoffs for our community. HB 3125 pertains to residential housing units which are relevant to the business community because our growing housing crisis is one of the top detractors of business and talent in our state, and our members are concerned about the slippery slope this policy creates to banning natural gas in commercial and industrial businesses.

While we have heard from many of our businesses that they support a move towards a future that includes as much renewable energy as possible, we have also heard that an outright ban is not a responsible direction for our community as we face an uncertain future with energy and capacity of our electrical system.

In addition, we believe this policy will ultimately place cost burdens on the business community as it shifts costs away from residential customers onto commercial and manufacturing customers. These ratepayers depend upon reliable, affordable energy, and this policy increases energy costs with no definable benefit.

I implore the committee to vote “no” on this bill.

Sincerely,

Brittany Quick-Warner  
President & CEO