

Submitter: Ron Younger

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure: HB3152

I oppose HB 3152.

As I understand this bill, it will eliminate the use of natural gas and will require a switch to electricity for many common appliances, such as furnaces, water heaters, ranges, and dryers. This applies to both residential and commercial facilities.

Electric appliances are more expensive to buy, install and operate. This places an unfair burden on low income and poor households. It will also increase costs for many businesses which ultimately gets passed on to consumers.

It would also increase the building cost of "affordable housing" by requiring the use of electric appliances in lieu of natural gas appliances.

The elimination of natural gas and switch to electric appliances would put a further strain on our electric grid. More electricity will be needed from the grid. Oregon has avoided brownouts so far with the purchase of electricity from out of state coal fired plants. As these plants are scheduled to be phased out, we will have an inadequate electric supply. Solar and wind will never be available 24/7 and we will still need fossil fuels (coal and natural gas) to supply electricity. A large portion of power that we are receiving now comes from these coal fired plants.

The bottom line is that we are not ready to phase out natural gas, as well as other fossil fuels.

I would like to know what plans are in place to make up for the power that will be lost from the out of state coal fired plants as they are phased out.

Thank you