



# The Climate Reality Project<sup>®</sup>

PORTLAND CHAPTER

March 15, 2023

House Committee Climate, Energy, Environment

Re: HB3152 – Support

Chair Marsh, Vice-Chairs Levy and Levy, and committee members, my name is Karen Harrington testifying in support of HB3152 on behalf of Climate Reality Project, Portland Chapter.

The international scientific community continues to produce reports telling us that we must do everything we can to invest in a clean energy future, not fossil fuels. As Oregon continues to move toward that clean energy future, it makes no sense to allow utilities to put the cost burden of continued investments in methane (natural gas) infrastructure onto customers. We need to protect customers from stranded assets, which is exactly what HB3152, the Utility Consumer Protection Bill, with -2 amendment does. We note that SB 868, the Healthy Heating and Cooling For All Bill, which will assist customers to access and install cleaner, more efficient solutions– is an important complement to HB3152.

HB3152 protects customers from financial risk as utilities continue to invest in natural gas expansion even as their share of energy consumption is, and needs to, decline. Clean electricity and efficient electrical equipment like heat pumps– which provide both heating and air conditioning in one system, and induction stoves– are the clear choice for air quality and lowering energy burdens.

We must ensure that utility regulation is in line with climate regulation. We ask for your support of the Utility Consumer Protection Bill (HB 3152), which will protect

customers from funding these fossil fuel systems which continue to emit greenhouse gasses escalating climate change. New fossil fuel investments today can last 60 years. This bill will direct regulators to align with state climate regulations and move us to a future that addresses climate and reduces emissions.

We respectfully request your support of HB3152.

Thank you,

Karen Harrington  
Climate Reality Project, Portland Chapter  
Legislative Committee, Co-Chair

About The Climate Reality Project

The Climate Reality Project, Portland Chapter is a local, volunteer-led group affiliated with the international non-profit The Climate Reality Project founded by climate leader and former US Vice President Al Gore, whose mission is to catalyze a global solution to the climate crisis by making urgent action a necessity across every sector of society. With a global movement more than 5 million strong and a grassroots network of trained Climate Reality Leader activists, we're spreading the truth about the climate crisis and building popular support for clean energy solutions.

For more information, visit the Portland Chapter at <https://climaterealitypdx.com/>, and the Climate Reality Project at [www.climaterealityproject.org](http://www.climaterealityproject.org) or on Twitter at [@ClimateReality](https://twitter.com/ClimateReality).