



September 3, 2020

Oregon Public Utility Commission
201 High St. SE #100
Salem, OR 97301

Regarding: Advice No. 20-14, PGE Revising the Residential Line Extension Allowance

Dear Commissioners,

The mission of the Oregon League of Conservation Voters is to demand clean air and water, healthy forests and wildlife, and a renewable energy future for all Oregonians. We support Governor Brown's Executive Order 20-04 which directs state agencies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 80% below 1990 levels by the year 2050.

In order to achieve this level of GHG reductions, the building sector must be transitioned away from a dependence on burning fossil fuels for energy. The adoption of high efficiency electric heating appliances is a critical and achievable strategy to accomplish this goal which has multiple other benefits for Oregonians including cleaner indoor and outdoor air, and lower energy bills.

The current construction allowance policies incentivize the installation of natural gas burning appliances in new construction. This policy will make it very difficult to achieve significant decarbonization in the building sector and will lead to high costs for homeowners in the future to switch to electric appliances. Building new gas infrastructure in this time is counterproductive to achieving our goals of reducing carbon emissions.

OLCV advocates for policy that will encourage the increase of renewable energy generation and reduction in burning fossil fuels for energy. Accordingly, OLCV endorses this proposal to increase the line extension allowance for new homes that will use electricity for the primary source of heating as a meaningful mechanism to encourage electrification in our building sector.

Please adopt this proposal from PGE.

Sincerely,

Doug Moore,
Director, OLCV