



To: Oregon Public Utility Commission  
September 3, 2020

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

Electrify Now is a volunteer organization that works to educate the public on the advantages of electrification as a critical strategy to lower carbon emissions and prevent the worst effects of climate change. Electric heat pump furnaces and water heaters as well as other highly energy efficient electric appliances are essential to achieving lower carbon emissions from our buildings and to improve the indoor and outdoor air quality in our communities.

The current construction allowance policies provide significant incentives for builders to install methane burning appliances in new homes. These incentives have the effect of locking homeowners into years of carbon emissions and air polluting equipment. Once this equipment is installed, homeowners will incur high costs to retrofit later to non-polluting, more energy efficient electric solutions for heating. These incentives also expose homeowners to the higher costs of heating with methane, which will only become more extreme as electric heat pump technology continues to become more and more efficient and as renewable energy costs continue to fall.

To achieve the carbon reduction goals that are mandated by Governor Brown's recent executive order, we must decarbonize our building stock and an essential step is to adopt policies that encourage electrification in new buildings.

We highly endorse this proposal to increase the line extension allowance for new homes that will use electricity for the primary source of heating. This is a very logical policy as those homes will see a higher electricity consumption. It will also help to encourage electrification in our buildings which will save homeowners money, improve our air quality and dramatically reduce our greenhouse gas emissions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Brian Stewart", written over a horizontal line.

Brian Stewart  
Founder, Electrify Now