



July 11, 2023

Public Utility Commission of Oregon
Attn: Charles Lockwood, PUC Staff
201 High St. SE, #100
Salem, OR 97301

Regarding: ADV 1502 / Advice 23-04, NW Natural revising Smart Energy to Include Renewable Natural Gas

Dear Commissioners,

The Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce is committed to building and maintaining a vibrant economy for the benefit of our members, regional businesses, and the community at large. Our mission is to foster a prosperous community by strengthening, representing, and promoting business. By modeling excellence, we seek to be a gainful partner and inspire the same throughout our community.

As in other locations, Springfield will continue to face new challenges related to climate change. Utility partners, government, business, and industry must come to the table to collaborate and generate innovative solutions to this complicated problem. NW Natural's Smart Energy Program is already helping over 84,000 customers lessen their environmental impact in homes and businesses and the proposed addition of renewable natural gas (RNG) will do even more.

- Diversifying this program by offering RNG as an additional option to choose from will generate new participation, further important conversations and education regarding emissions reduction, and allow NW Natural to further build out its company wide emphasis on implementing sustainable ways to meet the demands of the region's growing population.
- By capturing methane emissions from places like landfills and wastewater treatment facilities, NW Natural can recondition it and allow Smart Energy Program customers to have renewable natural gas used in their home and business consumption.
- Doing so creates an additional carbon mitigating resources in this already established program and allows an opt-in for those who can afford it.

Thank you for your consideration in adopting this proposal from NW Natural.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "V. Mikkelsen".

Vonnie Mikkelsen
President and CEO
Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce