

July 7, 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,

MEDP was established to meet the critical need for business development support through a focus on the retention, expansion, and recruitment of traded-sector (manufacturing) companies. Manufacturers in our community offer value through job growth, career opportunities, and above average wages. Annually, traded sector businesses benefit the economy in McMinnville providing 5,589 jobs, \$334 million in payroll, and \$1.565 billion in economic output.

The community has future goals for economic prosperity through the sustainable development of an Innovation Campus on nearly 140 greenfield acres. The property is envisioned to include Class A corporate offices, research and development, technology, and advanced manufacturing. This property location is unique in the State and offers a tremendous opportunity as a regional innovation hub and position McMinnville's manufacturing industry for a sustainable 21st century economy.

NW Natural's proposed revision to Smart Energy to include Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) will enable future development in McMinnville by supporting innovative companies in mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions and achieve targets that combat climate change. Attraction and retention of traded-sector businesses depends on leveraging resources such as a favorable business climate, a supply of market-ready, developable land, and renewable energy programs that encourage investment in reaching sustainability goals and ensure a resilient economy.

MEDP strongly supports the proposed revision to Smart Energy to include Renewable Natural Gas.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Patty Herzog
Executive Director
McMinnville Economic Development Partnership
patty@mcminnvillebusiness.com