July 15, 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,

For 40 years, Berg Productions Inc has worked with local and regional exhibitors at our three home and garden shows. Our home shows are the best attended home shows in the state because they are so accessible with free parking and free admission with canned food donations. As a second-generation family business based in Eugene, we understand the critical moment our community is in and support individuals and organizations collaborating to lessen our collective climate impact. In fact, in 2006 we launched the very first sustainable home and garden show in North America!

Our state 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 very complex 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 companywide 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,

Karen Ramus

Karen Ramus, President & Show Director

