



July 13, 2023

Public Utility Commission of Oregon
cc: 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,

Since 1969, Mid-Columbia Economic Development District (MCEDD) has worked to promote the creation of family-wage jobs, the diversification of the economic base, and the growth, development and retention of business and industry within our district. The district covers a five-county, bi-state region including Hood River, Wasco and Sherman Counties in Oregon plus Skamania and Klickitat Counties in Washington.

MCEDD has been a leader in the development of diverse industry clusters in the region including renewable energy. Our work has included convening the Columbia Gorge Bi-State Renewable Energy Zone (CGBREZ) with the intention of developing the Columbia Gorge region as a world-class center of renewable energy research, development, manufacturing and application of technologies. Our work also includes providing staff to the Hood River Energy Council and other support for utilities and renewable energy as one of our key industry sectors.

Changing the Smart Energy tariff to integrate renewable gas into the residential program offering and allow large commercial customer is important to our region by providing more opportunity and/or flexibility in achieving clean energy goals. We also see renewable natural gas investment opportunities like deriving from wastewater treatment plants, landfills and farms as an economic opportunity for the communities in our region. This will help put the waste of our agriculture-based economy and our larger cities to work while cleaning up the airshed.

Thank you for your consideration in adopting this proposal for changing the Smart Energy tariff from NW Natural.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jessica Metta".

Jessica Metta
Executive Director