



July 12, 2023

Public Utility Commission of Oregon

CC: Charles Lockwood, PUC Staff

201 High St SE #100

Salem, OR 97301

Regarding: ADV 1502/ Advice 2304 NW Natural revising Smart Energy to include renewable natural gas.

Dear Commissioners,

I am the owner of a central Willamette valley heating and cooling company. We service from Detroit to Dallas and Albany to Woodburn including all of the Salem area. On a daily basis, we have to answer questions from our customers about which fuel is the best for affordability, reliability, and for the environment. These are increasingly hard questions going forward. We are in the trenches with these issues. Our goals are to provide solutions to keep customers comfortable today and tomorrow with clean, reliable and affordable solutions.

We see many of our customers install premium efficiency natural gas and propane furnaces in order to save costs and limit their footprint. Many of these customers also install heat pumps on these same systems to go even one step further. However, these same customers are installing generators and refusing to transition to electric heat options because of experience and concerns over the reliability of our electrical grid and the potential for weather related power outages. These customers are convinced that if the wind blows whether hot or cold, they will lose power. We have to routinely explain to customers that their heat pump will not work on a generator without a huge generator. This is in contrast to gas appliances which can provide heat and hot water either completely without electricity or on very small generators or in a worse case scenario, run off an inverter from a car battery. This proposal would give approved clean options to power their appliances and generators.

In conclusion, we are convinced that the future is dual fuel. Our power system is becoming more and more unreliable and yet we continue to demand more of it and place more load on that system. We are constantly recommending dual fuel options to our customers because it gives them flexibility in the present and in the future. And it enables them to choose the fuel that best suits them. Without this proposal, it will make the future of many of these systems harder and more expensive for all of our gas customers.

Please consider Northwest Natural's proposal and work on renewable natural gas.

If I can be of any assistance in anyway, please don't hesitate to reach out. Jason@focusheatingandcooling.com

Sincerely,

Jason Burns
President
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