June 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,

The Linn Economic Development Group, formerly the Albany-Millersburg Economic Development Corporation, works tirelessly to support and assist in regional and state programs which will benefit the mid-Willamette Valley communities and establish a viable partnership for managed economic growth. Our organization brings together professional services, public resources, business and industry, as well as utilities to further the region's economic and social longevity.

As in other locations, Oregon 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,

John Pascone
President
Linn Economic Development Group