



July 13, 2023

Public Utility Commission of Oregon
Attn: Charles Lockwood, PUC Staff
201 High St. SE, #100
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for NW Natural revising Smart Energy to Include Renewable Natural Gas

Dear Commissioners,

The Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce is committed to serving as a catalytic leader to promote a vibrant and diverse economy that drives economic opportunity and well-being. We are intentional about empowering others to play a role in creating the best community possible, and combating climate change is a high priority for our region.

As in other locations, Eugene 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 currently serving 84,000 customers to lessen their environmental impact in homes and businesses, and **the proposed addition of renewable natural gas (RNG) will incentivize more individuals to participate in climate action.**

* Diversifying this program by offering RNG as an additional alternative will generate new participation, further important conversations and education regarding emissions reduction, and allow NW Natural to reinforce 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 will provide Smart Energy Program customers a renewable natural gas alternative to be used in their homes and business.

* We recognize the importance of electrification and the reduction of fossil fuel infrastructure in the coming decades to reduce carbon emissions; however, we believe NW Natural's pursuit to offer RNG creates a temporary, immediate solution to a long-term problem.

Thank you for your consideration in adopting this proposal from NW Natural.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brittany Quick-Warner".

Brittany Quick-Warner
President and CEO
Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce