



March 1, 2023

**Clackamas County Board of Commissioners
Policy Position
Relating to Natural Gas**

Clackamas County opposes HB 3152: The Board of County Commissioners supports all sources of energy and opposes legislation that would prevent the use of specific energy options.

First, Clackamas County is nearing the completion of a multi-year process to establish a climate action plan – one that will make sense for all of our residents, whether they live in urban, suburban, rural, or wild areas of our county. As part of this effort, we will pursue strategies to help us reach a goal of being carbon neutral by 2050. In the spirit of collaboration, we desire to be a partner in this statewide effort and urge the legislature to keep all energy options on the table that may help us reach this goal.

Second, Clackamas County residents rely on a variety of energy sources for their livelihoods. While each source of energy has pros and cons, we can acknowledge that appliance efficiency has improved vastly over the last several decades. However, consumer costs also have risen substantially, particularly in recent years with inflation and soaring housing costs. Removing consumer choices – and thus market competition that helps drive down costs – is more likely to increase the price of energy and place additional burdens on low-income residents.

Lastly, Clackamas County has first-hand knowledge of just how essential a diverse array of energy sources can be. During the 2021 ice storm, thousands of homes across the county lost power. Homes that had natural gas for heating, water heaters, and stoves were able to retain livability and reduce the strain on shelter services during the natural disaster. In subsequent high wind and storm events, proactive electricity shutoffs have been undertaken to prevent wildfires and protect the public. As these events become a more regular occurrence, it is important that all energy sources remain on the table as options for our residents.

We urge a “no” vote on HB 3152.

Please contact Chris Lyons at clyons@clackamas.us for more information.