



4940 NE 8<sup>th</sup> Ave. Portland, OR 97211  
ph. 503.522.4925  
[iafnw.org/macg](http://iafnw.org/macg)

Oregon Public Utility Commission  
3930 Fairview Industrial Drive SE  
Salem, OR 97302 - 1166

PO Box 1088  
Salem, OR 97308 - 1088

RE: Comments on UM1622 Gas Cost Effectiveness Measures

Dear Commissioners;

The Metropolitan Alliance for Common Good (MACG) appreciates the opportunity to submit comments on UM1622 Gas Cost Effectiveness Measures. Metropolitan Alliance for Common Good (MACG) is a non-partisan and non-profit alliance of 23 congregations, unions, and community groups in the Portland Metro area representing over 17,000 people.

MACG strongly supports continuing utility subsidies as important incentives for energy efficiency measures for owners of homes and small businesses. Utility programs incentivize owners to take appropriate actions to reduce energy use through long-term energy efficiency upgrades that benefit people in many ways. These utility programs (paid for by ratepayers) only help make such projects affordable, and it is the owners of the businesses and homes who pay for most of the cost. In choosing to make energy efficiency improvements owners are able to be more comfortable in their home or building while reducing their use of a finite resource and reducing their carbon footprint.

Energy efficiency programs are cheaper for the utilities and their customers than purchasing additional gas to meet demands from energy inefficient buildings and dwellings. We believe that eliminating these programs will increase costs to utilities and therefore increase rates for customers. Energy efficiency is the cheapest energy resource.

In addition to the benefits for owners and utilities, support for energy efficiency upgrades through programs like Clean Energy Works (CEW) supports small local businesses and provides living wage jobs for their workers. The workforce standards of CEW include skills certification, contractor selection criteria, and compensation standards. This delivery program is an important contribution to a more green economy and a win for all parties involved.

It is shortsighted to suggest that the temporary low cost of gas today means that energy efficiency retrofits do not pay for themselves. Cost for gas will go up in the

future, likely sooner than later, and it is not supportable to waste resources just because they are currently cheap. There are clear long term benefits from conserving natural gas regardless of the current price. Continued support for these retrofit programs means that together we are improving the environment, reducing use of a finite resource, providing jobs, and enabling homeowners and businesses to benefit from efficiency. Efforts such as these programs have made Oregon a leader in sustainability and energy policies.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Nemmers". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "M" and "N".

Mary Nemmers  
Lead Organizer