

Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians
AirWorks, Inc.
Alaska Housing Finance Corporation
Alliance to Save Energy
Allumia
Alternative Energy Resources Organization
Ameresco
American Rivers
Backbone Campaign
Beneficial State Bank
BlueGreen Alliance
Bonneville Environmental Foundation
Byrd Barr Place
City of Ashland
City of Seattle Office of Sustainability & Environment
CleanTech Alliance
Climate Smart Missoula
Climate Solutions
Community Action Center of Whitman County
Community Action Partnership Assoc. of Idaho
Community Action Partnership of Oregon
Earth and Spirit Council
Earth Ministry
Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon
eFormative Options
Energy350
EnergySavvy
Energy Trust of Oregon
ENGIE Services U.S.
Enhabit
Environment Oregon
Environment Washington
EQL Energy
Forth
Global Ocean Health
Green Energy Institute at Lewis & Clark Law School
Homes for Good
Home Performance Guild of Oregon
Human Resources Council, District XI
Idaho Clean Energy Association
Idaho Conservation League
Idaho Rivers United
League of Women Voters Idaho
League of Women Voters Oregon
League of Women Voters Washington
Montana Audubon
Montana Environmental Information Center
Montana Renewable Energy Association
Montana River Action
Multnomah County Office of Sustainability
National Center for Appropriate Technology
National Grid
Natural Resources Defense Council
New Buildings Institute
Northern Plains Resource Council
Northwest EcoBuilding Guild
Northwest Energy Efficiency Council
NW Natural
OneEnergy Renewables
Opportunities Industrialization Center of WA
Opportunity Council
Oracle
Oregon Citizens' Utility Board
Oregon Energy Fund
Oregon Environmental Council
Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility
Oregon Solar Energy Industries Association
Pacific Energy Innovation Association
Pacific NW Regional Council of Carpenters
Portland General Electric
Puget Sound Advocates for Retired Action
Puget Sound Cooperative Credit Union
Renewable Northwest
Save Our *wild* Salmon
Seattle City Light
Seinergy
Sierra Club
Sierra Club, Idaho Chapter
Sierra Club, Montana Chapter
Sierra Club, Washington Chapter
Small Business Utility Advocates
Smart Grid Northwest
Snake River Alliance
Snohomish County PUD
Solar Installers of Washington
Solar Oregon
Solar Washington
South Central Community Action Partnership
Southeastern Idaho Community Action Agency
Spark Northwest
Spokane Neighborhood Action Partners
Sustainable Connections
The Climate Trust
The Energy Project
Transition Missoula
UCONS, LLC
Union Of Concerned Scientists
United Steelworkers of America, District 12
Washington Environmental Council
Washington Local Energy Alliance
Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility
Washington State Community Action Partnership
Washington State Department of Commerce
Washington State University Energy Program
YMCA Earth Service Corps
Zero Waste Vashon



NW Energy Coalition
for a clean and affordable energy future

February 6, 2019
The Honorable Michael Dembrow
Chair, Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
900 Court Street NE
Salem Oregon 97301

Re: SB 98

Dear Senator Dembrow and members of the committee,

On behalf of the NW Energy Coalition, I am writing provide support for SB 98, a bill to allow gas utilities to begin purchasing Renewable Natural Gas within constraints that protect utility customers.

The NW Energy Coalition is an alliance of about 100 environmental, civic and human service organizations, progressive utilities and businesses in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana and British Columbia. We promote development of renewable energy and energy conservation, consumer protection, low-income energy assistance, and fish and wildlife restoration on the Columbia and Snake rivers.

SB 98 will provide an option for natural gas utilities in Oregon to work with local producers of renewable natural gas to integrate this cleaner gas into our energy system resulting in reduced greenhouse gas emissions. The development of renewable natural gas industry is in its beginning stages, and the development of secure markets for new products is vitally important to ensure investments. SB 98 provides additional market avenues for renewable natural gas in a manner that is safe and affordable for natural gas customers. Cost protections and other well thought-out measures in the bill strike the right balance between forward-looking resource development and customer affordability.

Over the long term, more development of renewable natural gas may not only provide significant environmental benefits, but it may also ultimately lower energy costs for consumers. Certainly we see this on a regular basis with

energy efficiency developments, which are higher cost when initially marketed, but as they gain market share end up saving customers millions of dollars. As with energy efficiency, renewable natural gas also has the added benefit of jobs and economic development that is inherently local – providing Oregon businesses and citizens with opportunities they wouldn't have otherwise.

The responsible development of renewable natural gas is good for our environment, our energy systems and our economy. We urge you to vote in favor of SB 98.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W Gerlitz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of each word being capitalized and larger than the others.

Wendy Gerlitz
Policy Director