

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
40th LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT
JEFF MORRIS

State of
Washington
House of
Representatives

TECHNOLOGY & ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT
CHAIR
TRANSPORTATION
ENVIRONMENT



6/11/14

Dave Danner

CC:

Ann Rendahl
Phil Jones
Jeff Goltz

During the 2014 Session, ESHB 2177 received a 96-0 vote on the House floor and, upon passage, would have paved the way for increasing the availability of natural gas throughout Washington State. The bill would have tasked the UTC with developing proposals to finance and build the natural gas infrastructure in the State. As you know, natural gas prices are decreasing and supply is increasing yet there are known gaps in the natural gas infrastructure. Not only are there currently many households and businesses unable to take advantage of natural gas but there are missed economic development opportunities due to the lack of an accessible natural gas infrastructure.

ESHB 2177 tasked the UTC with coming up with innovative ways to finance the build out of natural gas infrastructure into rural and underserved areas of the State. The bill would have required UTC to adopt rules to promote incremental investments in natural gas infrastructures that would result in, by December 2025:

- Residential conversion from wood or oil-fired boilers for space heating to natural gas; and
- \$250.0 million in pipeline expansion over a 10-year period (starting in 2015); and
- 50,000 residential natural gas conversions that currently use wood or oil-fired boilers over a 10-year period.

Given the strong bi-partisan interest in the House for these strategies, I am writing to request the UTC move forward with the concepts outlined in ESHB 2177. The time is now to begin working towards expanding the natural gas infrastructure in Washington and for the UTC to provide rules and regulations that support such expansion.

Please feel free to contact me with questions or clarifications.

Sincerely,

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Representative Morris