

37th Legislative District Democratic Environmental Caucus
<https://www.37environmentandclimatecaucus.org/>

Amanda Maxwell
Executive Director and Secretary

October 23, 2021

Dear Ms. Maxwell,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments as you consider changes to natural gas line extension allowances.

It is no longer reasonable for gas providers to be compensated by Washington ratepayers for new fossil gas infrastructure since many leading organizations such as the International Energy Agency have specified that society needs to stop building fossil fuel infrastructure to avoid a climate catastrophe. The price increases associated with funding line extension hurt our most vulnerable citizens the hardest. Those on low or fixed incomes should not be asked to contribute to infrastructure that will demonstrably make their environment worse.

Reasonably priced alternatives exist to heat commercial and residential buildings using electricity. Specifically, air source heat pumps work well in Washington's moderate climate. Regarding providing gas to power plants, the Washington legislature has outlined a path that will eliminate fossil fuel use from electricity generation, and thus phase out the need for fossil gas imports.

Thus, the 37th Legislative District Democratic Environmental Caucus supports discontinuing the Perpetual Net Present Value method or any rate-based fees for extending natural gas distribution infrastructure.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Sincerely,

Greg Stinson and Emily Knudsen

37th Legislative District Democratic Environmental Caucus
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