

**City of Portland | Sustainability Office**

Troy Moon, *Director*

**To:** Senator Lawrence, Representative Zeigler, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology

**From:** Troy Moon, Director of Sustainability

**Date:** January 21, 2024

**Re:** LD 2077



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**Testimony in Support of LD 2077,**

**"An Act Regarding Customer Costs and the Environmental and Health Effects of Natural Gas"**

Senator Lawrence, Representative Zeigler, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Technology:

I write to you in support of LD 2077, "An Act Regarding Customer Costs and the Environmental and Health Effects of Natural Gas." Adopting this measure would restrict future expansion of natural gas infrastructure in the state, which is necessary to meet our statutorily mandated carbon reduction targets. It also protects ratepayers from bearing the costs of building out gas infrastructure that will become more expensive and hard to maintain as commercial and residential customers transition to clean energy sources.

The City of Portland commends the Office of the Public Advocate and the cosponsors for advancing this bill. We are pleased to support it because it aligns with a policy goal stated in our climate action plan, to advocate in the Legislature for restrictions on intrastate and interstate gas lines (One Climate Future, pp. 113 - 115). We also endorse the bill's requirement that the Public Utilities Commission conduct an inquiry focused on the regulatory treatment of geothermal heat districts and alternative thermal technologies. This aligns with our strategy to support repurposing existing infrastructure and exploring ways to heat and cool buildings with zero-carbon technologies. Ensuring that the governing regulatory framework supports this makes common sense.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to participating in discussions that may occur to refine the language of this bill.