

Dear Legislators,

My name is Eileen Fromer and I have been working since 2016 to bring awareness of climate change and solutions to mitigate it. In addition to stopping the burning of fossil fuels, electrification of homes and buildings is a powerful tool to decrease warming of the atmosphere and oceans.

Transitioning to clean electricity for heating, cooling and cooking is a ‘no brainer’. In our homes, we’ll gain better health, lower costs and safer climate by increasing our climate resilience with more insulation, sturdier windows and doors and using clean electricity for heating, cooling and cooking. This will not only reduce pollution, but it will also lower our costs. Heat pumps not only cool us in the summer but are up to three times lower cost than using methane gas.

I’m alarmed to see the tactics that Northwest (so called) Natural Gas are using in Eugene to fight that city’s new ordinance to build a fossil free future. Using rate payer’s money to fund a campaign of disinformation including distributing children’s coloring books to schools with false solutions to combat climate change. They are also paying hundreds of thousands of dollars to people to get signed petitions to recall what voters passed this past year. Greenwashing as if those of us working for a safer future don’t know what they are doing.

Local solutions to the pollution coming from the natural gas industry are critical to cleaning up our air and water. Not only that, the health of our children is constantly threatened by gas stove emissions that cause a 42% increased risk of asthma symptoms.

Senate bills 868,869,870 and 871 will ensure all our homes and buildings are more resilient to protect us from climate harms. We can make sure that new construction is built smart from the start and remove barriers for Oregonians who want to improve our homes and buildings to waste less energy, protect us from climate extremes and run on clean energy.

Thank you for supporting this vital legislation.