

**RE: Milwaukie's Net Zero plan is a clear and present danger to its people**

Public Communication, Business Meeting, November 30, 2023

Dear Chair Smith and Vice Chair Shull, and Commissioners Schrader, Savas and West

**I alert you to a plot by the Milwaukie City Council** and Milwaukie City Staff to ask, demand that the Clackamas County Public Health Department issue a statement that natural gas utility service poses a health risk.

I refer to Milwaukie City Council's November 7, 2023, Work Session – which is posted on the City's website. (The plot begins about 1 hour and 11 minutes into the City's video, 11/7/23, Work Session,)

**The Milwaukie City Council's real design for asking the County Health Department to issue a statement is not really about any health risk**, but the real design is to restrict and ultimately ban natural gas utility service in the City of Milwaukie. You see about a year ago now the City of Milwaukie in pursuit of its Net Zero Climate Plan goal passed a Resolution banning new natural gas utility hookups. The Council also wants to eventually ban natural gas service entirely even for those with existing natural gas utility connections. [a subsequent federal court ruled such City bans as violating federal law and therefore unlawful.]

**I am asking the Board of Clackamas County Commissioners to not aid and abet Milwaukie's attempt to restrict the people's access to natural gas utility services.** To limit the County's Public Health Department from being able to assist and abet Milwaukie's attempt to take away one of the essential means the people of Milwaukie have for heating their homes and at affordable rates.

The fact is that it costs a lot less for people to heat their homes with natural gas than electricity.

This winter, Northwest Natural gas company lowers its rates by 8% whereas PGE will soon increase its rates by 17% (Oregon Public Utility Commission news releases).

The fact is that the Pacific Northwest Utilities Conference Committee, of which PGE is a member, is projecting that electricity supplies are at high risk of becoming short, during a low water year reducing hydroelectricity supplies, as early as the year 2026. This risk of shortage is only going to get much bigger as the decade progresses. (Milwaukie's Climate Plan of Net Zero rests solely on the untested dream that somehow batteries currently highly expensive and only capable of storing energy for a few hours will become sufficient to serve as the main back up for the vagaries of wind and solar power generation.)

The Fact is that natural gas inserts and gas stoves are viable ways to keep people warm during electricity blackouts.

The fact is that people will be forced to burn more wood, or indoor portable propane heaters, if not allowed access to natural gas utility service.

In summary, the real public health risk is Milwaukie City Council and City staff's Net Zero plan.

Sincerely,

Elvis Clark

Concerned citizen of Milwaukie and Clackamas County