



Date: November 18, 2020

Dear Mayor Vinis, City Councilors, and City Manager Medary,

The undersigned organizations are writing in regards to the ongoing use and expansion of natural gas and other fossil fuel infrastructure in the City of Eugene. As the climate crisis worsens, we believe it is of utmost importance for the City to be taking extensive measures to eliminate its carbon emissions, and provide for a just transition to renewable energies. As such, we expect that with bold city leadership the City of Eugene will meet the goals of the Climate Recovery Ordinance (CRO) (adopted 2014, modified in 2016) by the year 2030.

We are aware that fracked gas has been a significant contributor to the City of Eugene's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and that its extraction and transportation disproportionately impacts historically marginalized, low-income and BIPOC communities. We know that the City Council, Mayor, City Manager and city staff have considered numerous options in negotiating a new franchise agreement with Northwest Natural (NWN), including no new "natural" gas infrastructure in our city. After two six-month extensions, and now with a third extension approved (which ends in May of 2021), no agreement has been reached. We ask that our elected leaders refuse to continue a franchise agreement with NWN unless they agree to terms that put us on track to meet our CRO goals. We also request that the City stringently work to deny the construction of any new fossil fuel infrastructure in our city.

Specifically, we are concerned about expansion in the area of the Downtown Riverfront site. If new gas lines are constructed in this or any other area, they will surely be used to deliver fracked gas for many decades at the expense of our climate and our community. In light of this, it will be impossible for the City to meet the climate goals laid out in the CRO — especially considering the fact that the current Climate Action Plan (adopted July 2020) already leaves a 40% gap to meeting CRO goals. If the City is serious about reducing GHG emissions, City Council must mandate that not only these buildings be built with electric utilities, but that all new construction must be built without natural gas hook ups. Eugene must [follow the lead of progressive cities across the US](#) and begin forging a just transition to renewable energy for all of its citizens.

The undersigned believe that it is the City's legal and moral responsibility to do everything in its power to eliminate GHG emissions in line with the recommendations of the best available science, and invest in building climate resilient communities freed from reliance on fossil fuels.

Sincerely,

Beyond Toxics
Cascadia Action Network
Cascadia Wildlands
Eugene Democratic Socialists of America
Eugene Environmental and Climate Justice Committee
Heart in Hand
NAACP Eugene/Springfield
Springfield Eugene Tenants Association
Sunrise Eugene
University of Oregon Climate Justice League
University of Oregon Young Democratic Socialists of America
350 Eugene