



Home Builders Association
of Metropolitan Portland

1/18/2022

Mark Gamba, Mayor
10722 SE Main St.
Milwaukie, OR 97222

By E-mail

Re: Jan. 18, 20220 Agenda Item RS 7. B.

Dear Mayor Gamba,

I am writing you today in opposition to the resolution titled “A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MILWAUKIE, OREGON, DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO BEGIN THE PROCESS TO REACH OUR GOAL OF BEING NET ZERO BUILDING ENERGY BY 2035” as currently drafted.

Although we support the city’s efforts to address climate change and the substantial work, over recent years, that has gone into those efforts, as a representative of the homebuilding industry, our members companies, their employees and the Oregon families that we supply homes to, I must also provide our concerns for the record.

The Home Builders Association of Metropolitan Portland (the “HBA”) represents over 1300 businesses and tens of thousands of women and men who work in the residential building and remodeling industries throughout the greater Portland area. We are dedicated to maximizing housing choices for all who reside in the region while promoting housing access and availability for everyone.

We believe a balanced approach, recognizing all forms of transitional and renewable energy including renewable hydrogen and natural gas, solar, etc. as part of the solution should be the goal, rather than an exclusionary outcome. Just as a best practice dictates having a diverse stock portfolio, a diverse energy portfolio is also important to the resiliency and cost effectiveness of the energy grid.

The market expects and often demands gas in new homes, and with the advances in renewable natural gas and hydrogen technologies, it is possible and becoming more cost effective to provide a sustainable, climate-friendly solution to the end user. We encourage the city to not “throw the baby out with the bath water” through this resolution, but understand the market demand and work to offer a better, more sustainable climate friendly version of what is desired rather than try and force a change through a mandate serving to exclude a specific type of energy delivery.

Subject header here

As an industry that provides homes to Oregonians, we respectfully ask that you consider a balanced approach that recognizes the need for multiple resilient and redundant systems to deliver affordable energy to the end user in their home.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "C. Ryan Makinster", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ryan Makinster

Director of Policy and Government Relations

CC: Councilor Angel Falconer
Councilor Lisa Batey
Councilor Desi Nicodemus
Councilor Kathy Hyzy