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Save our natural gas

Dear Commissioner Patty Monahan,

As a member of UWUA Local 132, I want to thank you for your leadership to reduce greenhouse gases and your decision to not rush California into costly and unreliable building electrification.

Our, over 4,000 members, are highly trained first responders that safely maintain thousands of miles of natural gas infrastructure. We provide essential services to over 20 million customers, and we consider the safety and integrity of our systems and the environment top priorities.

Our members and leadership are greatly concerned about climate change and reducing greenhouse gases. We believe we can achieve this by enhancing energy efficiency programs, expediting leak repairs, and increasing the use of cleaner fuels like biogas and hydrogen.

I strongly caution you that any type of ban on natural gas for residential or commercial buildings will:

- Â· Increase energy bills for working families.
- Â· Kill union jobs.
- Â· Make our communities more vulnerable to disasters and extreme weather events.

Instead of a reckless push for building electrification, has the Commission considered advocating for an appliance replacement program?

The creation of an appliance replacement program, similar to "Cash for Clunkers," to replace outdated gas & electric appliances with environmentally friendly appliances with modern pilotless ignition will immediately reduce GHGs. This program can be completed by Customer Service Representatives who are Utility Worker Union Members and currently perform this work for the Southern California Gas Company.

This program would immediately reduce GHGs, expand union jobs, and save tax payers money.

Let's please work together to address climate change while protecting jobs and working families.

Thank you.

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