



8113 W. GRANDRIDGE BLVD., KENNEWICK, WASHINGTON 99336-7166
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Mayor Russell;

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments in support of the Community Climate Action Plan developed by the City of Bend's Climate Action Steering Committee (CASC).

The vision of the Community Climate Action Plan is to have neighbors, businesses, and community leaders work together to preserve our natural environment, while promoting economic opportunity and resilience. The Climate Action Plan is a roadmap to meet those goals. The recommendations provided by the CASC will guide the City and community in pursuit of its ambitions to reduce fossil fuel use by 40% by 2030 and by 70% by 2050 as established in Resolution 3044.

From the very beginning, the pathway for developing Bend's Community Climate Action Plan has been solutions-oriented and practical. The CASC has taken the time to test its ideas, and consider the costs and impacts of its plan, as well as the benefits. This analysis has included examining the co-benefits of each proposed measure. Such co-benefits include economic vitality, affordability, support of the natural environment, social equity, community health and safety, as well as security and resilience. The work of the Good Company in providing analysis for this effort has been exemplary.

The CASC surveyed over 2,000 members of the Bend community from across all political affiliations and backgrounds. They presented to over 30 community groups, and worked with technical consultants to conduct more than 40 stakeholder interviews about specific strategies to gather Bend-specific data to inform the modeling used in this Plan. The CASC, its staff, and contractors have never shied away from the challenge of having their ideas tested, and strengthened, through principled conversation and a willingness to ask hard questions.

Cascade staff found participation on the CASC to be valuable to the development of our own climate actions. The Community Climate Action Plan has resulted in productive brainstorming with Cascade on the potential development of a natural gas offset program for community gas use, and the exploration of future biodigester partnership. These ideas surfaced in no small part thanks to the spirit of creativity and collaboration fostered by the CASC.

Because Cascade believes it's important to manage costs for our customers, we do have one recommendation that differs from the Plan. Cascade recognizes the value of Home Energy Score component of the Plan, but maintains its position that if this portion of the plan is implemented, that it is done as an opt in program tied to a community energy or weatherization initiative; or is implemented in a manner that does not place additional economic burden on consumers looking to buy or sell their home. Cascade is confident that these concerns can be addressed through continued discussion and planning in the event the City Council votes to move forward with the Plan. However, recognizing the risk of unintended consequences for this portion of the Plan early



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on ensures that the right individuals from the housing, low-income, and economic communities are brought in as this concept is further refined.

Cascade strongly supports the CASC's recommendation that the City Council launch an ongoing governance structure that helps facilitate implementation of the CASC strategies and provides opportunities for citizen and stakeholder input into the implementation process. We believe this process will be essential to ensuring successful achievement of the City's climate ambitions while monitoring the economic health of the community; and ensuring continued grid stability and energy affordability. By working together collaboratively, Cascade is confident that we will be able to do our part to minimize carbon impacts, while maintaining and growing Bend's economic vitality.

Again, it has been an honor for Cascade to have a subject matter representative on the CASC, and to be part of a group rising to the challenge of addressing carbon impacts in Bend. The diversity of perspectives shared in an environment of mutual respect and concern for our environment and customers has been exemplary.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 206-310-1120 or alyn.spector@cngc.com.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alyn Spector". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Alyn Spector
Energy Efficiency Policy Manager
Cascade Natural Gas Corporation