



February 1st, 2022

RE: Opposition to HB 22-1020 Customer Right to Use Energy

Dear Bill Sponsors: Representative Dan Woog and Senator Barbara Kirkmeyer;
and House Energy & Environment Committee Members:

The Colorado Renewable Energy Society (CRES) is a nonpartisan, science-based non-profit with thousands of members throughout the state. The CRES Policy Committee brings together a broad range of energy policy and technology experts who review energy bills before the Colorado state legislature to provide our perspective.

After reviewing this unnecessary and problematic bill, the Colorado Renewable Energy Society Policy Committee **strongly opposes** this bill.

Natural gas hit the branding jackpot. As consumers, we're programmed to trust products with "natural" in their names but despite having a name we inherently want to trust, natural gas is still a fossil fuel just like coal and oil. It's actually Fossil Methane.

Methane is one of the key greenhouse gasses released or leaked from venting and distribution and research shows that methane, when released into the atmosphere is more than 80 times as powerful as carbon dioxide at trapping heat in earth's atmosphere over a 20-year period. Methane emissions, paired with the variety of other air pollutants that natural gas releases, pack a serious punch for our health, safety, and environment.

In-home gas appliances and fossil fuel-burning heating devices generate a variety of air pollutants including nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, volatile organic compounds, and particulate matter. This has been linked to serious health risks, including cancer, decreased lung function, worsening asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and heart disease symptoms, nervous system damage, delayed neurodevelopment in children, and premature death. Due to the severe health and climate risks associated with indoor use of natural gas, we need to be working to remove it from homes and businesses, not preserving the right to use it.

Sincerely,

Vincent Calvano
Chair of the Colorado Renewable Energy Society Policy Committee
703-975-6085