

THE PROBLEM: 17.4% INCREASE

CASCADE IS ASKING FOR A HUGE INCREASE IN OUR GAS BILLS

Cascade is asking regulators to approve a 17.4% increase in home gas bills. This could **raise the average January gas bill to \$135** (up from \$119) when heating is most important. **Oregon is in an energy affordability crisis.** In 2024, Oregon utilities disconnected a record 70,000 customers (130,000 people).

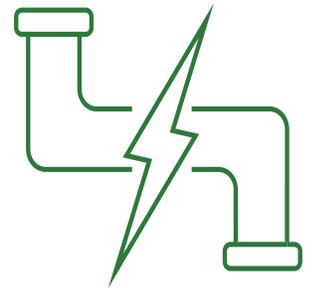
And Cascade is asking for more money that may not benefit Oregon households. Big spending on adding new customers, expensive renewable natural gas, and expanding the gas system may mean higher bills with no real benefit for us. Advocates are also investigating the gas utility's policy that requires customers to subsidize new hookups for homes and businesses, expanding the gas system.

WE NEED REGULATORS TO CUT CASCADE'S COSTS

STOP EXPANDING SUBSIDIES FOR GROWING THE GAS SYSTEM

Cascade will soon be the last remaining Oregon gas utility charging customers an expansion subsidy. Regulators ended this subsidy for NW Natural and Avista because it does not benefit customers. As folks all over the state choose to go electric, removing the gas expansion subsidy would save existing customers money!

Cascade is also trying to punish new customers who decide to move away from using gas. If a new customer doesn't use a baseline amount of gas each year, they will have to pay Cascade up to thousands of dollars.



LIMIT UNCERTAIN BET OF RENEWABLE NATURAL GAS

Gas utilities must reduce emissions by 2050, but we need that to be affordable. Renewable natural gas is a favored option for gas utilities because its big cost means big profits. But renewable natural gas is expensive!

Oregonians can not afford to be dragged down by bad bets on renewable natural gas. Cascade has made big investments in capturing this methane at the Knott landfill, which is shutting down. Moving customers to electric appliances also reduces gas use and is shown to be cheaper and better at reducing emissions.



NO PAYING FOR OVERINVESTING IN GROWING THE GAS SYSTEM

Cascade seems to be projecting more growth in its gas system than makes sense for Oregon. Approval of these overinvestments will strain Oregonian household budgets, in a time when we see so many struggling with energy affordability!

Bend, Cascade's largest service area, is actively considering policies that would shrink the gas system. It is irresponsible to make investments against the trends we see in Oregon.



GET INVOLVED

TELL REGULATORS LOWER BILLS, NOT HIGHER PROFITS

We need your help to stop gas bills from going up for questionable investments, expanding the gas system, and higher profits for shareholders. Regulators at the Oregon Public Utility Commission are considering **Cascade's request to raise your bills by 17.4%** and need to hear from customers like you!

HOW TO TAKE ACTION

SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENT TO REGULATORS

Short on time but want to let our regulators know you care about this issue? We've got a pre-written form you can use to send written comments to regulators at the Oregon Public Utility Commission! **Submit by March 10 for the biggest impact.**



If you prefer email, puc.publiccomments@puc.oregon.gov — include docket # UG 525 in the subject!

SET UP A 1:1 WITH OUR COMMUNITY ORGANIZER

david@oregoncub.org
(503) 482-6853
bit.ly/CUBdavid

Reach out to our Community Organizer to learn more about the campaign and get plugged into our organizing around this issue! We can help you share this campaign with your neighbors and community and take even bigger action.

TESTIFY AT THE PUBLIC COMMENT HEARING

PUBLIC HEARING
March 3, 2026
Virtual - 6:00 PM



Step 1: Introduce yourself. State your name, city/town.

Step 2: Identify your connection to this issue:

- I already have a difficult time keeping up with my bills in the winter, and these new rate increases will add to the strain I face.
- I don't think it's fair that, as an existing Cascade Gas customer, I'm paying to subsidize housing developers so that Cascade can grow its gas system.
- I fear that Cascade is making risky investments into renewable natural gas (methane capturing) and trying to stick us residential customers with those costs.

Step 3: Write 2-3 sentences expanding on the issues you checked off. Elaborate on your concerns and impacts related to this rate case. Use talking points on page one!

Step 4: Reiterate the importance of regulators prioritizing residential customers' costs and remind them what's on the line for you and your community.