

Summary of Testimony Received

Washington State Energy Code – NW Gas Association Petition

Testimony received as of 5 p.m. on 9/20/2024

Name	Subject	Summary
Dan Kirschner (Written) NW Gas Association	In support of Option 2	Hybrid heating dramatically lowers emissions – by eliminating electric resistance use when gas is at its best and eliminating gas use when the heat pump is at its best. In this way, it lowers operating costs compared to all-electric heating, especially in frigid Eastern Washington winters, while also reducing peak winter electricity demand. Plus, it allows building owners to use smaller generators to stay warm during power outages, reducing construction and operating costs.
Larry Andrews (Written and Oral)	In support of Option 2	Burning natural gas lowers its global warming potential. The electrical grid is overtaxed; we've come close to blackouts. It is expensive to expand the electrical infrastructure. Electricity is more dangerous than natural gas.
Virginia Clough (Written) City of Spokane Valley	In support of Option 2	...the City of Spokane Valley offers written testimony in support of Option 2, as this amendment provides more flexible solutions to comply with the state energy code. The proposed amendment helps avoid unnecessary cost increases to make home purchases and rental costs less expensive for consumers who are trying to stay afloat during challenging financial times.
Kevin Duell (Oral) NW Natural/ NWGA	In support of Option 2	Most manufacturers make hybrid units, which can lower emissions and operating costs compared to all electric units. They will also reduce peak demand for electricity. This is an allowed option in the residential energy code and for water heating.

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Patrick Hanks (Written and Oral) BIAW	In support of Option 2	<p>We encourage the council to adopt Option 2 of WSR 24-16-146 which will provide more flexibility for multi-family residential dwellings across the state when it comes to space heating. This is especially important for multi-family buildings in regions of our state that experience cold winters where electric heat pumps will not perform as efficiently.</p> <p>Hybrid heating options are a good option for builders and allow buildings to maximize their energy efficiency, maintain consistent heating for their residents, while reducing their electric demand at peak times during the winter. This will help reduce operating costs for building owners and residents.</p> <p>It's more equitable for rural areas.</p>
John Rothlin (Written) WA Public Utility Districts Assoc.	In support of Option 2	<p>The proposed changes in OPTION 2 will help reduce the risk of Washington having insufficient energy resources during extreme cold events.</p>
Elizabeth Torske (Oral) Cascade Natural Gas	In support of Option 2	<p>This change would be very beneficial and more equitable. It's a great option to use hybrid heat pumps to increase efficiency.</p>