



SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

Oregon State Legislature
State Capitol
Salem, OR

NEWS RELEASE

June 19, 2013

CONTACT: Tom Powers (503) 986-1074
tom.powers@state.or.us

Senate facilitates emissions reduction to combat global warming

SB 844A allows natural gas utilities to lower emissions in order to meet Oregon's greenhouse gas goal

SALEM—This morning the Oregon Senate approved an innovative bill that provides the state with another measure to fight global warming. Senate Bill 844A, which allows the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to consider voluntary arrangements between natural gas utilities and their customers in order to reduce greenhouse gases, passed on a vote of 29-0 with one excused.

“The world’s leading climate scientists have documented a clear global warming trend caused by greenhouse gases. We need more innovative solutions that reduce these emissions while supporting our economy,” said Senator Lee Beyer, sponsor of the bill. “Establishing this voluntary reductions program is the right step towards finding new energy sources that will make for great long-term investments.”

In 2007, the Oregon Legislature passed into law one of the most ambitious goals in the nation for reducing greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global warming. Coming up in 2020, Oregon’s goal is to have reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 10% of levels found in 1990. By 2050, Oregon’s goal is to reduce these emissions to 75% of 1990 levels.

Under SB 844A, the PUC can approve incentives for public utilities to invest in projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and provide benefits to their customers. This will help utilities promote energy sources that can put Oregon on the path to meeting its emissions reduction goals.

“Unless we take meaningful action, global warming poses a serious threat to Oregonians and the environment we cherish,” said Senator Jackie Dingfelder, chair of the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee. “We have the power to reverse these harmful greenhouse gas emissions, and this bill creates even more incentives for us to act responsibly to stop global warming.”

Senate Bill 844A now heads over to the Oregon House of Representatives for consideration.

###

For more information on the Senate Majority Caucus, please visit www.orsenatemajority.org