

The Honorable Mayor Ted Wheeler  
Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty  
Commissioner Mingus Mapps  
Commissioner Carmen Rubio  
Commissioner Dan Ryan

October 26, 2022

Re: NW Natural Comments on Mayor Ted Wheeler and Commissioner Dan Ryan's Proposed Resolutions to Address Homelessness in the City of Portland

Mayor Wheeler and Commissioners Hardesty, Mapps, Rubio, and Ryan,

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments in light of the City of Portland's proposal to address homelessness put forward by Mayor Ted Wheeler and Commissioner Dan Ryan. We would like to express conceptual support for a heightened focus on humane and compassionate solutions for how to impact this ongoing issue in our shared city. We look forward to seeing more collaboration, details, and plans and stand ready to lend our support.

As one of the oldest companies in Oregon and with a headquarters located in the heart of downtown Portland, NW Natural employs hundreds of Portlanders who come to work in our central city every day. As such, we have witnessed firsthand the humanitarian crisis on our streets. We know that public safety, safety for our houseless community, safety for the community at large—including safety around energy infrastructure—has to be central to how these proposals move forward. Our community's current approach to mitigating this crisis has not worked. The houseless members of our community continue to be at risk for public safety and health issues. We firmly believe that the mark of a civil and compassionate society is how we care for those most in need; clearly, we as a community have not been doing this to the best of our collective ability.

We understand that Mayor Wheeler and Commissioner Ryan have worked together to introduce a comprehensive plan to rectify the current situation, and we firmly support the City of Portland's efforts to provide safe and clean places for our houseless neighbors to sleep and connect them to social services and hygiene facilities, two basic needs that offer both support and dignity. We urge members of the City Council to work with the mayor to implement a plan which would realize these goals and offer much-needed support to members of our community experiencing homelessness.

We understand there are challenges and acknowledge that this work will require significant financial and staff support from the City as well as its partner jurisdictions and providers that serve the greater Portland area. We, as a business and community partner to the City of Portland and a

large area employer, stand ready to offer support to see these proposed actions move forward in collaboration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amy Rathfelder". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Amy" being more prominent and the last name "Rathfelder" following in a similar style.

Amy Rathfelder,  
NW Natural Government and Community Affairs Manager, Multnomah County