

letters

HOLVEY RECALL AN ABUSE OF THE SYSTEM

I've had the opportunity to work alongside Paul Holvey in the Oregon House for the last six and a half years, including as a member of the Business and Labor Committee that he chairs. Paul is an honest and hardworking voice for Lane County, and, without a doubt, he's one of the strongest allies for workers in the Capitol. A retired union carpenter, Paul has championed legislation that created paid sick time and paid family leave, increased the minimum wage, ensured agricultural workers are eligible for overtime and expanded the use of apprenticeships in this state.

So, like many in our community, I was shocked when I learned that UFCW is attempting to recall Holvey — it's honestly one of the most inexplicable things I've ever experienced during my time in the legislature. To date, UFCW has spent over \$100,000 of their members' hard-earned money gathering signatures for the recall effort.

Frankly, I believe this an abuse of Oregon's recall system. A recall should be reserved for egregious cases of an elected official acting illegally or unethically. Paul won re-election with 85 percent of the vote just nine months ago, and voters

will weigh in on this seat again next year. If this recall succeeds, the conservative Lane County Commission will appoint the next state representative for House District 8, not voters. I ask HD 8 voters to say "no" to this recall by declining to sign the recall petition — and, should this make it to the ballot, to please vote "no."

*Rep. Julie Fahey
House Majority Leader*

'NATURAL' GAS IS DANGEROUS TO YOUR HEALTH

At a recent leadership conference of the American Academy of Pediatrics, doctors proposed a resolution on children's health and the use of "natural" gas indoors. It notes "concerns going back almost a century to support caution in the use of natural gas, with recent studies attributing significant pediatric asthma and lung disease risk to gas stove use." In the fourth edition of the *Pediatric Environmental Health* (2019), pediatric health professionals wrote that "During the winter, average indoor concentrations of nitrogen dioxide in homes with gas cooking stoves are as much as twice as high as outdoor levels."

Good on them for exposing the truth about gas appliance pollution

after decades of glitzy, misleading advertising from the fossil fuel industry. Methane gas, cleverly promoted as "natural" gas, is a powerful climate-changing greenhouse gas. Emissions from home gas appliances also expose residents to more benzene and other toxic chemicals than secondhand smoke. The air quality team at Beyond Toxics recently completed an in-depth study documenting how harmful gasses accumulate at dangerous levels inside kitchens when cooking on a gas range. These are chemicals known to cause respiratory diseases and cancer, hence the warning from pediatricians.

I'm grateful our City Council is committed to turning off the methane gas spigot. As the council develops a residential gas ordinance that can withstand the inevitable court challenges from the gas industry, let's remember that past regulations to prevent exposure to asbestos, lead paint and second-hand smoke were adopted despite industry's protestations. Local governments, including Eugene, are doing the right thing to phase out the use of methane gas appliances.

*Lisa Arkin
Executive Director, Beyond Toxics
Eugene*

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