



SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL
Snohomish County, Washington

RESOLUTION NO. 24-013

**A RESOLUTION OF THE SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL SUPPORTING
AFFORDABLE ENERGY CHOICES FOR SNOHOMISH COUNTY**

WHEREAS, during the 2024 legislative session, the Washington State Legislature passed Engrossed Substitute House Bill (ESHB) 1589; and

WHEREAS, on March 28, 2024, Washington Governor Jay Inslee signed ESHB 1589 into law; and

WHEREAS, according to the bill report, ESHB 1589 mandates, among other requirements, that Puget Sound Energy (PSE) file a plan with the Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC) to combine their gas and electric utilities; and

WHEREAS, approximately 150,000 customers in Snohomish County are served by natural gas from PSE; and

WHEREAS, transitioning homes and businesses from natural gas to electric service can be very costly for homeowners and business owners; and

WHEREAS, the conversion from natural gas to electric service will require homeowners to remove all natural gas appliances, rewire their home, purchase all-electric replacement appliances, and dispose of gas appliances; and

WHEREAS, according to the Building Industry Association of Washington, the cost to convert a home currently served by natural gas to electric is approximately \$40,000; and

WHEREAS, the costs to upgrade the current electrical system will be borne by rate payers, rather than PSE; and

WHEREAS, according to PSE, 35%-40% of their customers are already energy burdened, meaning they struggle to pay for existing natural gas and electric service; and

WHEREAS, combining natural gas and electric service will result in expensive upgrades for individual homeowners as well as system improvements which will further burden customers; and

WHEREAS, the provisions of ESHB 1589 do not give any predictability with regard to timeline or costs for customers subject to the transition from natural gas to electric service;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Snohomish County Council does hereby support energy choices for residents and business owners in Snohomish County and encourages the Washington State Legislature to consider the harmful impacts of ESHB 1589 on PSE customers throughout the Puget Sound. The Council urges the Legislature to revise state law regarding transitioning from natural gas to electric utilities in the 2025 legislative session to protect the financial security of residents and businesses.

APPROVED this ___ day of _____, 2024.

Jared Mead
Council Chair

Nate Nehring
Council Vice-Chair

Sam Low
Councilmember

Megan Dunn
Councilmember

Strom Peterson
Councilmember

ATTEST: _____
Elena Lao, CMC
Deputy Clerk of the Council