

Senate Finance Committee
02/16/2021

Senate Bill 503 – Public Utilities – Gas Service Regulator Safety

POSITION: NEUTRAL

Thank you, Chair Kelley and members of the Senate Finance Committee, for the opportunity to comment on SB503.

Safety—for customers, employees, contractors and the general public—is Washington Gas’ number one priority, and we are committed to delivering natural gas safely and reliably each and every day.

We’ve worked with Delegate Charkoudian extensively on this bill and have reviewed the amendments included in the third reader.

WGL has a neutral position at this time, but reserves the right to change that should the bill be further amended.

The Committee should also be aware that PSC Order No. 89680, issued on December 18, 2020, approved WGL’s Proposed 2020 Mercury Service Regulator (MSR) Replacement Program which includes a survey of MSRs on our system and the removal of multi-family unit MSRs within three years and the removal of all other MSRs within five years.

While the equipment and action referenced in SB 503 is different than the Commission-approved replacement plan, there will be overlap and we’ll have to work through how these two programs move forward efficiently.

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