

Submitter: M. E. Murphy

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB685

Dear Chair and Committee Members:

My name is M. Murphy. I reside in Eugene, Oregon. I write to urge you to support SB 685.

It is of utmost importance to address Oregon's current insufficient regulatory framework for blending hydrogen into natural gas residential home pipelines.

It is time Oregon ensures the utility industry is subjected to rigorous oversight and notice requirements to alert the public of its risky experiment.

Current regulatory gaps pose significant risks for ratepayers, public safety, and environmental health.

I urge you to support SB 685 to provide hydrogen blending oversight and public notice.

Oregonians have the right to know what's being piped into their homes -- before the gases arrive.

The public has the right to know what risks hydrogen blending poses to their health, their homes and their communities.

Public utilities should not be experimenting with hydrogen blending without notifying impacted communities before conducting an experiment that comes with significant risk of long-lasting harm, including potential additional health hazards linked to the use of natural gas.

Regulations of this industry experiment are paramount to ensure public safety and transparency.

Hydrogen blending is risky. Hydrogen is known to make pipelines brittle and subject to leaks and even explosions. SB 685 will create safety protocols for blending to protect people, pets, homes and communities from well-documented risks.

The public also must be protected from bearing the brunt of the economic burdens associated with blending and pipe retrofitting. Utility companies must pay for this costly experiment and must be prevented from transferring the costs to ratepayers

without their knowledge. The public deserves sufficient opportunities to submit public comments about the practice of passing off costs to ratepayers, burdening the public with higher utility bills.

Furthermore, hydrogen blending creates another climate crisis problem. It will prolong our dependence on fossil fuels like methane, a potent greenhouse gas driving the climate emergency.

Burning natural gas in homes contributes to indoor air pollution proven to cause respiratory illnesses. The utility industry has a duty to warn the public of yet another potential harm entering their homes and the environment.

For the health and well being of all planetary inhabitants, I urge you to support SB 685.

Thank you for your time. Thank you for your consideration of what's at stake.

Sincerely,
M.Murphy
Eugene, OR