

Submitter: Philip Ratcliff

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB685

Hydrogen ignites more easily and is more explosive than methane. This increases the danger of explosions in buildings. Methane leaks inside residential and commercial buildings when appliances are in use and when they are turned off. Hydrogen could make these leaks more dangerous.

The American Medical Association recognizes the dangers of blending hydrogen and “natural” gas. Hydrogen may possibly lead to more emissions of nitrogen oxides, raising risks of respiratory diseases.

Blending hydrogen with methane prolongs our dependency on fossil fuels. Burning methane gas produces numerous health-harming pollutants and fuels the climate crisis we are experiencing at this very moment.

While hydrogen blends below 6% are generally safe, higher percentage blends added to the natural gas stream result in a greater risk of pipeline leaks, embrittlement of pipelines, stove and water heater malfunctions, and explosions.