

Submitter: Diane Hodiak
On Behalf Of: 350Deschutes
Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB685

Support for SB 685

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Thank you for allowing me to comment.

This is a frightening prospect: to allow Northwest Natural, without oversight, to use an explosive gas in the mix for users. The company already has multiple lawsuits against them for allegedly untruthfully representing the unhealthy and unsafe nature of their gas. They promise to reduce their emissions, and yet once searches fruitlessly for any sign that the industry is actually reducing emissions as it says it is. Should they be trusted to expand the use of gas without significant oversight? Can we really trust this industry to use “clean Hydrogen” when there seems to be a lack of transparency as to how this gas is actually made and delivered? Oregon doesn’t need more emissions as we are on a pathway to decreased emissions to combat climate change.

This endangers the people of Oregon. In my own region, Central Oregon, gas expansion is planned for a 60 year old pipeline that is beyond its safe level. (usually around 50 years) corrosion and leaks have already been identified that could lead to deadly explosions and wildfires.

Lastly, there are better options for energy: renewable energy. We should not allow NW Natural to sidetrack and lock us into decades more of toxic, unhealthy and unsafe gas use.