

Date: February 11, 2025

To: Senate Committee on Energy, and Environment

Subject: Support SB 685 Hydrogen Blending Oversight and Public Notice

Dear Chair Sollman, Vice–Chair Brock Smith, and Members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment,

I am a NW Natural customer and a resident of SE Portland. I resent the fact that without my knowledge or consent, NW Natural is blending hydrogen into the methane that ends up in my home. This is an unregulated activity with unknown risk and should not be permitted without proper oversight. Furthermore, NW Natural is using my money to conduct this experiment.

Medical experts have warned that hydrogen blending could increase in-home emissions of nitrogen oxide, which is a potent cause of asthma in kids and other respiratory disorders. We raised our son in a home with a gas stove. He developed asthma as a schoolboy and continues to have problems with wheezing as an adult. No one in both sides of our extended family has asthma. We were a non-smoking home and our son had no disease in infancy that would account for his asthma. I suspect it was the exposure to nitrogen oxide from our gas stove that caused it. Of course, we can never prove it, but why, as a community, would we want to potentially increase that risk for all the kids still exposed to gas stoves.

Hydrogen blending also degrades gas pipelines, making them more susceptible to leaks, fractures and explosions. Gas pipelines are already notorious for their ubiquitous leakage. They are the most vulnerable part of gas production and transmission and are responsible for the grand share of gas-related ruptures and explosions.

And for what purpose would we want to allow hydrogen blending? To help NW Natural prolong our dependency on fossil fuels? The planet is burning up. This last January was warm and dry like I, a lifelong resident of Oregon, have never seen. We are fools to support anything that keeps fracked gas flowing into our homes and businesses.

At a minimum, this is an activity that needs to be regulated and surveilled. Portlanders deserve to know what is coming into their homes. I urge you to support SB 685.

Respectfully submitted,

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