

Submitter: Deborah Savage

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB685

I am a resident in in the Brooklyn neighborhood in inner Southeast Portland. I first heard near the end of 2024 that hydrogen is being added to our natural gas in the area in which I live. My neighborhood has not yet been advised by NW Natural that hydrogen is being added to our gas and i am very fearful more than ever of methane leaks and possible explosions. Any increased risk of methane leaks and/or explosion is significant and unacceptable.

It is my understanding that hydrogen being added to gas is also done in Hawaii, however, in Hawaii the gas pipes are specially lined. My house was built in 1906, and I do not trust that pipes serving this neighborhood are safe in light of the hydrogen addition.

I am not even close to being an expert in regard to hydrogen blending, I would like to depend on the experts at the Public Utility Commission, the Multnomah County Health Department, and the Fire Marshall, to determine my safety as opposed to trusting what the utility companies may say. The provision of transparency, oversight and planning included in SB 685 is in everyone's best interest (including the public utilities.) Thank you.