

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,

My name is Laulea Miike, and I live in our state capital, Salem, Oregon. **I am a sophomore majoring in environmental science at Willamette University.** I'm taking a Climate Justice Workshop course that has inspired me to give testimony to the issues I care about. Oregon's current regulatory framework lacks sufficient oversight and notice requirements for blending hydrogen into natural gas residential home pipelines. This regulatory gap poses significant risks for ratepayers, public safety, and environmental health. I support SB 685 to provide hydrogen blending oversight and public notice.

As someone who lives and receives an education in an institution that uses natural gas, I would want to know if hydrogen was being blended with it. Hydrogen ignites more easily and is more explosive than methane, which increases the **danger of explosions** in buildings if a leak were to happen. **Most of Salem's buildings are very old, with a large portion of its infrastructure, including gas lines susceptible to corrosion and cracking.** When more than 6% of hydrogen is added to natural gas, pipes are more likely to experience leaks, become brittle, and break. **Adding hydrogen to natural gas is just a disaster waiting to happen.** **For the health and safety of myself and other Oregonians, we deserve to be notified when a dangerous element is being used in their homes.**

On top of that, when I move out of my dormitory in less than a year, **I do not want my utility bills raised without prior approval for maintenance and operational costs.** I do not want to bear this financial burden when my gas pipeline is retrofitted- which will happen as you get to 15% by volume blend.

Furthermore, the climate impacts of blending hydrogen are significant. Methane gas is a feedstock required for blended hydrogen, a fossil fuel **90 times more effective than carbon dioxide at trapping atmospheric heat.** When methane leaks during production and transmission, it produces emissions as well. **We cannot be dependent on fossil fuels that compromise our clean air, degrade the environment, and exacerbate climate change.**

I urge you to represent the interests of Oregonian's safety and consumer rights by supporting SB 685.

Sincerely,
Laulea Miike