

Date: February 12, 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 Maya Ryley, and I live in both Eugene and Salem, Oregon. As a student on a campus and a resident in a home that both use natural gas I believe those impacted and the customers have a right to know if hydrogen blending is happening. This is why **I support SB 685** and its promise of hydrogen blending oversight and public notice.

Currently, Oregon’s regulatory framework lacks sufficient oversight and notice requirements for blending hydrogen into natural gas residential home pipelines. This means that NW Natural Gas is acting without any oversight, accountability, or transparency with the amount of hydrogen being blended and because they aren’t required to notify customers of this situation those impacted are unaware of the danger they’re in.

This means the two places I have been promised to be safe, my home and my university, are not only under threat of being a safety hazard but also accelerating the climate crisis. Instead of feeling comfortable in my house I will be wondering if there is hydrogen in my pipes and if so because it ignites more easily, is more explosive than methane, and embrittles pipes if my house is going to explode. Moreover, instead of learning how to be an active participant in the world I’ll be thinking about the possible hydrogen in the pipelines that are prolonging our dependence on fossil fuels and trapping more carbon in our atmosphere thus adding to the rising temperatures.

Without this bill all of us are forcefully blind to the danger this company is putting you, me, our families, our communities, and our planet in. That’s why I strongly urge you to **support SB 685** to provide oversight and public notice to better keep Oregonians as well as the climate safe.

Thank you for your time and your support,

Maya Ryley