



February 12, 2025

VIA ONLINE PORTAL:

<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2025R1/Testimony/SEE/SB/685/0000-00-00-00-00?area=Measures>

The Honorable Janeen Sollman
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR, 97301

RE: Senate Bill 685 – OPPOSE

Chair Sollman and Senate Energy & Environmental Committee Members –

The Green Hydrogen Coalition ("GHC") appreciates the opportunity to provide written testimony on Senate Bill 685. The GHC is an educational 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. GHC's mission is to facilitate policies and practices that advance clean renewable hydrogen production and use in all sectors of the economy to accelerate a carbon-free energy future. Our sponsors include foundations, clean renewable energy users and developers, utilities, and other supporters of a reliable, affordable clean renewable hydrogen fuel economy for all.

While the goal of oversight and protecting residents is laudable and well-intentioned, Senate Bill 685, and the amendment, will likely lead to confusion and a chilling effect on the renewable hydrogen industry. This bill could lead to companies deciding that the cost of blending hydrogen or developing new projects is not worth the investment and that would in turn prevent millions of emissions from being removed. Furthermore, public notice could appear to residents as a warning and cause unnecessary fear that they are at risk. Hydrogen blending has been occurring without incident for decades in other states, but public notice



would likely not include that context. Instead, public notice could cause residents to believe they are at risk and must create a fervent uproar to protect themselves and their families.

SB 685 would add provisions to the production of hydrogen that are unnecessary and ultimately harmful. Specifically, the original version would have required additional layers of review that are inherently duplicative. Organizations like NW Natural already have an IRP process that considers the social and economic costs with integrating hydrogen into their systems. Additionally, many of the proposed guardrails are already implemented at the Federal level; including, PHMSA's strict requirements around leak detection, integrity management, and service line testing. The US Department of Energy also has standards developed to produce clean hydrogen and the use of methane pyrolysis technology.

Given the concerns stated by community members, a better approach would be to consider ways to resolve the myths associated with blended hydrogen and facilitate additional demonstrations within the state. With dozens of states already using blended hydrogen for decades, including Hawaii at over 50 years, the technology is empirically safe and the safety regulations already in place are doing their job. In fact, the UC Riverside study cited by one of the panelists during the February 10 hearing notes that amounts in the range of 5-20% can be blended without a significant impact on safety.

As Oregon pursues a clean and renewable energy system for the benefit of all, it is important that measures designed to provide oversight do not end up frustrating the very long-term goals that are meant to address climate change and reduce GHG emissions. In closing, the GHC welcomes the opportunity to discuss this more with the committee and members but must stand opposed to SB 685 and its amendment for the reasons listed above.

Thank you,

Tim Kamermayer
Director, Policy & Regulatory Affairs
Green Hydrogen Coalition