

Submitter: John Giacoppe

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB685

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is John Giacoppe. I'm the co-chair of the Eco-Socialist Working Group of the Portland DSA, although I am writing you only representing myself.

As a resident of Portland with many friends in the Brooklyn area, and as a musician who plays venues in Brooklyn, I strongly support this bill. It is a common-sense measure that addresses a number of gaps in our existing utility code. Firstly, it prevents fearmongering from any party and brings the long-term plans of utilities into public view, where they belong. Secondly, it prevents utilities from using hydrogen blending projects as a backdoor to rate hikes. Natural gas rate hikes have been devastating households across the state, and utilities should be able to clearly show that hydrogen-blending projects will not attempt to make natural gas transmission cleaner at the expense of the consumer. Lastly, it gives the state a tracking system for hydrogen blending, letting the state and the public know how popular this technology proves to be and collecting accurate data that all parties can use to improve similar projects in the future.

Finding out information about Northwest Natural's existing blending project in Brooklyn has been a huge challenge, for residents of Brooklyn and for Portlanders generally. This bill would make it a given that robust details of existing and planned projects are available to the public, bringing peace of mind to residents and preventing friction within utilities when public access is demanded. Please bring this necessary bill to the floor of our State Senate so that Oregonians can know what's in the gas line - and be protected from the costs of this new technology during a time of great economic hardship.

Sincerely, John G