



TO: Oregon Senate Energy and Environment Committee

February 10, 2025

RE: Opposition to SB 685

Chair Sollman and Members of the Committee;

UA Local 290 Plumbers and Steamfitters and the Plumbing and Mechanical Contractors Association of Oregon urge opposition to Senate Bill 685, and further work on the -1 Amendment.

UA Local 290 and the PMCA represent over 5,000 working men and women and hundreds of contractors in the State of Oregon who do piping, fitting, and mechanical work across the state. Our members and contractors build and maintain gas infrastructure and systems, and work with organizations at the cutting edge of hydrogen technology. As an industry we have invested millions of dollars over the years to develop a highly trained, licensed workforce that is ready and able to further advancements for Oregon's clean energy future.

Hydrogen is one of the single most promising areas to actualize the State's clean energy goals – especially in hard to decarbonize sectors – and to reduce carbon emissions in Oregon's critical natural gas industry. Senate Bill 685 as written would significantly stymie these efforts and have a direct and negative impact on realistically achieving our climate goals.

Importantly, Oregon has the opportunity to be a hub for new hydrogen technology creation, development, implementation and the high-tech manufacturing for it. However, we are not the only state that has this unique opportunity. Passage of SB 685 would pose obstacles to the jobs creation and economic benefits that this emerging industry could bring to Oregon.

We appreciate the work that was done to dial back the impact to this clean technology in the -1 amendment, however we believe this needs further work with industry stakeholders and the sponsors of the bill to ensure it is implementable.

As those who do much of the work in this critical industry, we strongly urge you to oppose SB 685, and to continue to work with the industry to amend the bill in a way that supports Oregon's clean energy goals and helps our state be a leader in the development and use of hydrogen technology.

Thank you for your work, and we hope to be a resource on this issue.