

Submitter: Camille Hall

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB685

I support of SB 685, Hydrogen Oversight and Public Notice. The most compelling argument to me is the Public Health and Safety aspect of producing or distributing hydrogen in areas where people live and work.

The gas industry's current interest in adding hydrogen to residential and commercial natural gas (methane) is particularly troublesome. Far from just a substitute for methane, this blend of hydrogen and methane has unique chemical properties which require special handling to prevent serious long-term damage to existing natural gas infrastructure. These costs will be passed on to consumers in the form of pipeline replacement costs, long after the gas utilities and shareholders have banked their profit from their anticipated cost savings.

Hydrogen is even more volatile than methane. The increased risk of explosion and the escalated degradation of the broad network of existing pipelines is a harm that we can and should prevent. Use of this blend of methane and hydrogen should be limited to facilities and infrastructure designed specifically to deal with the unique characteristics on hydrogen use. This product must be monitored and controlled to prevent widespread damage being passed onto the public.