

Submitter: Jennifer Krauel
On Behalf Of: Scientist Rebellion
Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB685

Dear Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Brock Smith, and members Golden, Pham, and Robinson,

I am speaking today as a member of Scientist Rebellion, and as a resident of Portland and thus consumer of public utilities. I urge you to support SB 685, which would enact some safeguards and transparency around the blending of hydrogen into pipelines to protect community health, safety, and utility affordability.

As I scientist, I have serious concerns about the safety of bringing hydrogen-blended fuels into residences and other buildings without a better understanding of the risks involved in deployment. I am further concerned that using methane to produce this hydrogen actually contributes to climate change while potentially being touted as reducing it, a form of “greenwashing” fossil fuels. Finally, as a consumer, I worry that the energy-intensive process of generating hydrogen using methane is more expensive than simply burning methane in the first place, and utilities will pass those extra costs on to me as a consumer for no good reason at all.

SB 685 will require only that utilities give notification of the use of hydrogen. This is a minimum of protection important for Oregon citizens. Support SB 685 as a first step!