



Office & Professional Employees International Union, Local 11, AFL-CIO
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February 12, 2025

Dear Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Brock Smith, Members of the Committee,

OPEIU Local 11 has represented NW Natural employees since 1945. I worked as a Construction Foreman from 1989-2023 for NWN which provided me a family wage paycheck every two weeks along with a retirement and healthcare package.

Early on in my career I learned the commitment NWN had for eliminating leaks and decarbonizing by replacing all cast iron and bare steel pipe with polyethylene and coated steel pipe. NW Natural has one of the most modern and tight gas systems in the country, which has been recognized by my union peers throughout the country.

For 13 years my primary role was to respond to natural gas emergencies (strikes against our facilities) created by contractors and customers. Our purpose is to protect life and property prior to eliminating the hazard. All NW Natural First Responders are trained through a robust scenario-based training program at our mock town at our Sherwood Training facility and have routine requalification and testing. NW Natural currently provides training for Fire Departments at our Sherwood Training facility and/or their facilities along with online courses. nwnatural.e-smartresponders.com

Clean hydrogen represents an enormous innovation and jobs opportunity, we urge you to not let Oregon fall further behind. As you heard in testimony by experts in the field, hydrogen blending is already regulated on the federal side (PHMSA Part 192), as the regulations apply to all flammable gases, and OPUC tariffs. There are already many hydrogen blending projects around the world, and more than a dozen North American utilities have deployed hydrogen, now is not the time to stop Oregon in its tracks.



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At the heart of our members' work is the future of both energy systems, the underground gas system and the above ground electric system. These two systems work together to provide for all Oregonians and Oregon businesses. In order to have a robust regional economy, you cannot have one system without the other and we need clean hydrogen for both.

Unfortunately, SB 685 will hinder innovation and job creation in Oregon; it is unnecessary, it is burdensome. Please vote NO on SB 685 and vote NO on the Dash-1 Amendment.

Thank you for considering OPEIU Local 11's testimony on SB 685.

Respectfully and In Solidarity,
Howard Bell
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