

12 February 2025

Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Subject: SB 685 - Support

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

I am writing in support of SB 685 which puts some safeguards on gas utilities blending hydrogen into the methane they distribute to their customers. Hydrogen, especially green hydrogen produced by electrolysis, can help reduce carbon emissions in specific sectors of the economy (certain industrial and transportation applications) which otherwise would be difficult to electrify. However, many studies make clear that electrification is more cost-effective, healthier and safer for heating and cooking in homes and businesses.

The gas utilities claim that blending hydrogen into their distribution system will result in meaningful and cost-effective greenhouse gas emissions reductions. This seems more like an expensive public relations stunt. In fact, the reality is quite the opposite. Hydrogen embrittles the gas distribution pipes which further increases the leaks of methane into the atmosphere that already exist in the system. This would significantly accelerate global warming as methane is 80 times more potent than CO₂.

I urge you to support SB 685.

Michael Mitton
MCAT (Mobilizing Climate Action Together)

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