

Testimony in support of SB 685 Feb 2025

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

My name is Joseph Stenger MD. I am writing in support of SB 685 with the -1 amendment.

Hydrogen causes pipes to weaken and is flammable and explosive. I want to be notified if my methane gas producer is going to begin doing something more dangerous to my family.

This now-weakened bill only requires utilities to notify affected customers and the PUC prior to blending hydrogen into deliveries to customers. This requirement is just common sense.

As a physician, knowing that blending hydrogen into methane gas lines will increase household levels of NOX with its toxic pulmonary effects is enough to cause me to oppose such blending. However, this bill does not *prevent* corporations from doing this, it only requires prior notice.

Hydrogen will be useful to reduce climate pollution when used in hard-to-electrify applications. That is NOT in home heating applications. It is clear that electrification of home heating and stoves is the most cost-effective option that emits the least pollution. It is also necessary to assess the carbon-intensity of hydrogen to accept any claims that this is a climate solution. Hydrogen made by burning fossil fuels is certainly not a climate benefit.

Hydrogen is currently not cost-effective. Who will bear the added costs of adding this to home gas delivery? Past experience tells us that customers will bear the financial burden of this decision.

Requiring notice to customers and the PUC is the barest minimum for an action that raises risk, likely raises costs, and likely worsens climate pollution.

I urge a vote FOR SB 685-1.

Thank you for all your dedicated work on behalf of Oregon's citizens.

Joseph Stenger MD