

Submitter: Linda Kelley  
On Behalf Of: 350 Eugene  
Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment  
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Chair Sollman, Vice Chair Brock Smith, members of the committee, my name is Linda Kelley, I live in Eugene and I volunteer with 350 Eugene. We focus on climate safety and climate justice by educating and organizing our community in transitioning off fossil fuels and advocating for strong climate policies.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I'm here to express our support for Senate Bill 685-1. We much preferred the original bill that included prior authorization as opposed to mere notification, however something is better than nothing.

Our concerns are as follows:

**Safety:** Current Research confirms that hydrogen is a significant fire and explosion hazard when mixed as low as 4% with natural gas. It can be ignited with a small spark, has a wide flammable range, and a nearly invisible flame. It has very rapid disbursement due to its very small molecular size. An average leakage rate in natural gas pipelines in the US is 3%.

**Climate:** According to the 2024 Oregon Biennial Energy Report more than 99% is derived from fossil fuels. This dangerous choice added to our natural gas system only prolongs the untenable life of natural gas usage. Our natural gas companies would be wise to pivot to geothermal heating companies with legislative support like Washington State's HB 2131 AND SB 6039, which passed last session with bipartisan support. Geothermal maintains jobs in the oil and gas industry and creates family living wage jobs.

Testimony by the Hydrogen industry was interesting and the argument of capturing methane to create hydrogen and incorporate carbon into cement/asphalt is a good concept. Using Hydrogen for hard to abate industries and select transportation also can have a role.

However, the requirements of SB 685 for notification and authorization by the PUC was a good bill; what seems to remain is notification only.

Our position is that Hydrogen mixed into our natural gas pipelines is a dangerous choice and ultimately should not be pursued at all but as a precautionary step SB 685-1 is a first step.

Thank you for your work and service to of us in Oregon. We appreciate you and

count on you to help us create a safe and sustainable future.

Linda Kelley,  
Coordinator, 350 Eugene