

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

I am writing today in strong support of SB 685, a bill that allow Oregonians to know what is in the gas lines in their homes and businesses.

Back in 1604, an English judge ruled that “a man’s home is his castle” where no one could enter without permission. That legal principle originally applied to sheriffs and tax collectors. It should also apply to putting highly combustible gases into the pipes of Portland homes. No novel elements should enter a home without the homeowner’s knowledge and permission.

Adding hydrogen to natural gas transmission worsens respiratory diseases like asthma, increases the risk of gas leaks, and increases both the financial and environmental costs of utilities. In summary, adding hydrogen costs more, is less healthy and less safe. Why do it?

Only gas companies, not consumers, appear to benefit. Which may be why gas companies kept it secret.

Thank you for supporting SB 685, which gives homeowners knowledge and control over elements entering their homes. Thank you for supporting the 400 year old legal principle that a man’s home is his castle..