

Submitter: Bill Bold

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB685

I tentatively support this bill but don't believe it is the right way to solve this problem. Hydrogen is a lower energy content fuel than methane. By adding it to a natural gas line you are lowering the energy content of the fuel meaning that customers will burn more to get the same result. Good for the utilities, bad for customers. And I believe the environmental/climate value of adding methane to a natural gas line is questionable. At one point we had a national standard of some sort that gas utilities were required to meet. This standard specified energy content and defined how many impurities (such as hydrogen) could be in the gas to be acceptable. I believe it would be more effective to control what gas utilities put in their gas via this standard than to try to regulate the production facilities, which this bill does.

I suspect OPUC already has the authority to regulate the quality of gas in the lines, it would be better for them to increase their oversight in this area than create a new bureaucracy to approve hydrogen plants.