

Submitter: Patricia Hine
On Behalf Of: 350 Eugene
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB685

Dear Chair Lively,

Last year I was appalled to learn that utilities could blend hydrogen into residential natural gas lines without notifying residents, local governments, or the Oregon Public Utility Commission (OPUC).

As you know hydrogen is not the same as so-called natural (methane) gas and has not been tested in this application. The public deserves to have experts study and report the affects of blending hydrogen into pipelines to ensure indoor air quality and safety, i.e., risks of explosion.

The public deserves at least "notice" if hydrogen is being blended into home gas line and the PUC should provide oversight. This bill will set clear rules to ensure ratepayers don't pay for risky experiments.

This looks like an attempt at greenwashing by the natural gas industry in order to claim they are reducing the devastating effects that their product is having on our climate.

Gas rates have gone up 50% in 3 years! We can't let them pass off experimental hydrogen costs to struggling families.

Thank you.