

Submitter: Terri Brain

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB685

I write in support of SB685.

Inserting hydrogen into residential pipelines is hazardous to the health of the people living in those homes. Of course, they should be notified!

But when it comes to regulating the use of “natural” gas, we must be bolder.

Given that we know “natural” gas produces toxins that are harmful to human health; given that there are many alternatives to “natural” gas; and given that these alternatives are both less expensive and emit fewer greenhouse gasses into an atmosphere already so full of greenhouse gases it is changing the very climate we live in, we must embark on a race—perhaps like the “race to the moon” of old--to retrofit ALL homes heated by noxious “natural” gas to healthier and greener energy alternatives.

I applaud all past and future efforts to provide incentives to homeowners to move away from heating with fossil fuel. But I am most concerned with the plight of the renter. And the children of these renters who will be breathing these noxious fumes for years and years to come--unless the Oregon legislature DOES something.

History tells us: we cannot wait for the consciences of our nation’s slum lords and “natural” gas executives to kick in. We need laws.

I am grateful to live in a democracy in which I have elected representatives who are entrusted with the power and responsibility to make laws.

Be bold. I cannot imagine what on earth (besides the earth) you have to lose.

Respectfully,

Terri Brain