

Submitter: Sherry Hanrahan

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB685

Dear Legislators,

I live in SE Portland (HD 46) near the area where NW Natural has already released Turquoise Hydrogen into surrounding homes with NO notification to the families affected.

I attended a Hydrogen Blending Session in SE Portland last December and learned that after a failed attempt to release Hydrogen blended gas into homes in Eugene, OR without notifying anyone, NW Natural had already started releasing a 0.2% blend of hydrogen gas into Portland homes. Although air quality should always be a concern, gas released directly into family kitchens through a gas stove should be a particular concern. NW Natural has not able to clearly identify which homes were affected or how much of a hydrogen mix is safe in enclosed spaces – because it is a pilot project and this is an experiment.

This bill does not restrict blending, but it does ensure a minimum of transparency so that affected families have a voice.

Other reasons the affected public should be informed of hydrogen blended gas in their homes:

? Hydrogen is more explosive than natural gas and the small particles leak more easily

? This is an experimental pilot project with a lot of unknowns. The public has a right to know when they are being used in an experiment, especially when they are paying for it.

? Local fire and emergency responders should be aware to maximize public safety when leaks and/or explosions occur.

? This amended bill only directed gas companies to inform the public when the blend reaches 2.5%, which is a high blend.

Thank you for the bipartisan support this bill received in the Senate and to the Representatives sponsoring this bill. Please see to it that this commonsense bill passes.

Respectfully submitted