Submitter:	Helena Birecki
On Behalf Of:	
Committee:	House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment
Measure, Appointment or Topic:	SB685

Chair Lively, Vice Chairs Gamba and Levy, and Committee members.

My name is Helena Birecki; I live in NW Portland and have friends in SE Portland where the hydrogen blending "pilot" is happening. I support hydrogen oversight and wish the original version of SB 685 were still being considered.

We don't need more polluting combustion fuels in our communities.

Combustion of hydrogen does not emit carbon dioxide but it emits significant amounts of health harming nitrogen oxides when burned.* Did you know that children in homes with gas stoves are 42% more likely to get asthma than kids in homes with electric stoves?** That disparity could get even worse with hydrogen blending.

Hydrogen production is also nearly always polluting and harmful to both climate and public health. Upstream pollution from the extra methane gas needed for grey, blue, and turquoise hydrogen can actually exceed the pollution from status quo usage. Even green hydrogen is only as clean as extra grid electricity available to make it.

Please see this document for more information on the climate and affordability problems that unwise uses of hydrogen can create:
https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2025R1/Downloads/PublicTestimonyDocument/125711

Hydrogen has no place in residential or commercial pipelines. Please pass SB 685 and then please go to work to safeguard people's health, budgets, and futures from a fuel gone rogue.

Thank you,
Helena Birecki

References:
* https://www.energy.gov/eere/fuelcells/does-use-hydrogen-produce-air-pollutants-such-nitrogen-oxides (accessed 5/6/25)

** https://www.health.harvard.edu/blog/have-a-gas-stove-how-to-reduce-pollution-that-may-harm-health-202209072811 (accessed 5/6/25)

Making Hydrogen Work for the Energy Transition (one pager with 19 additional references)
https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2025R1/Downloads/PublicTestimonyDocument/125711 (accessed 5/6/25)