



To: House Committee on Climate, Energy and Environment
From: Consolidated Oregon Indivisible Network (COIN)
Re: Testimony in support of SB 685 A
Date: May 4, 2025

Chair Lively, Vice Chair Gamba, Vice Chair Levy, and members of the House Committee on Climate, Energy and Environment

I am writing on behalf of the Consolidated Oregon Indivisible Network (COIN). COIN is a coalition of over 50 local Indivisible groups, spanning all regions of Oregon, that cooperate and amplify their efforts to advance federal and state legislation and engage with elected officials to promote progressive causes that benefit all Oregonians.

We strongly support SB 685 A, which requires public notice by gas utility companies when hydrogen is blended into residential gas pipes. We have followed this bill through the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment, where it was passed, with several amendments, to your Senate Committee.

Our general concern, from the outset, has been with safety issues around blending hydrogen with natural gas in homes, particularly embrittlement of residential pipes, compatibility with household appliances and health concerns with fugitive emissions/leaks (nitrous oxide). Hydrogen blending is largely untested in U.S. residential gas systems, and studies raise concerns about pipeline integrity, leak risks, and appliance compatibility. In addition, the point at which significant carbon extraction occurs in the blending process (10-20%) borders on levels of hydrogen that are unsafe, particularly with respect to respiratory illness.

To be clear, **our concerns have specific relevance and import for hydrogen blending in residences**; the bill does not pertain to issues of hydrogen blending in commercial or industrial applications.

The amendments to previous versions of SB 685 seriously weaken its substance. Two examples illustrate this: (1) Gas utility companies have agreed to notify residential customers and the PUC if they plan to increase – for the first time -- the amount of hydrogen that is blended with natural gas at levels greater than 2.5%. There is no requirement to provide notification for subsequent changes in the ratio of hydrogen-to-gas; (2) they agree to notify the PUC, but with no requirement for PUC approval.

Nevertheless, residential utility customers and the PUC deserve to AT LEAST BE INFORMED about decisions that could impact their family's health and household costs. Oregonians need your help to protect public safety and ensure transparency and reasonable oversight. **We strongly encourage you to pass this bill – with no**

additional amendments that weaken its intent or implementation. The sponsors of this bill have worked tirelessly with ALL stakeholders to resolve what should be a responsible standard-of-practice between utility providers and their customers.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify I support of this important legislation.

Respectfully,

Patricia Kramer, Portland
on behalf of the Consolidated Oregon Indivisible Network
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