



OREGON STATE SENATE

Chair Lively, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committee,

For the record, my name is Senator Khanh Pham, representing Senate District 23 in Southeast Portland. I'm here to introduce Senate Bill 685, which passed the Senate with bipartisan support and strong community engagement.

This bill is about transparency and trust.

Last summer, my office heard from hundreds of Oregonians—many in my district—after learning about a hydrogen blending pilot project in Southeast Portland. Residents were surprised and concerned. They raised questions about safety, health risks, and the lack of public notice. When we followed up with the Public Utility Commission, we learned something surprising: there's currently no requirement to notify the public or the PUC when hydrogen is blended into our home gas systems.

SB 685 addresses that gap. It requires utilities to provide public notice when hydrogen is blended above 2.5% or by June 30, 2030 at any amount—so that families know what's coming into their homes.

Over the past year, I've worked closely with community members, utility leaders, renewable hydrogen advocates, and organized labor, including the Carpenters, Electricians, and Ironworkers. I've toured NW Natural's facility and listened carefully to all perspectives. What we have before you today is a thoughtful, consensus-driven bill, the result of months of dialogue and collaboration.

Hydrogen will likely play an important role in decarbonizing hard-to-electrify sectors like heavy industry and transportation. But as we innovate, we must also ensure public trust and accountability. SB 685 doesn't regulate hydrogen use—it simply ensures that when it enters our residential gas supply, the public is informed.

Transparency builds trust—and trust is essential to Oregon's clean energy transition. I respectfully urge your support for SB 685. Thank you.

