



The Climate Reality Project[®]

PORTLAND CHAPTER

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

Copied below is the testimony we would have given at the hearing had time allowed:

My name is Helena Birecki and I'm speaking on behalf of the Climate Reality Project Portland Chapter, a non-partisan volunteer-led organization which advocates for real climate solutions, climate justice and public health. We support hydrogen oversight and judicious deployment.

Hydrogen, of any color, has no place in our residential and commercial pipelines.

Let me be clear: blending hydrogen into residential pipelines is likely worse for health, safety, affordability, and climate than the status quo gas service.

Hydrogen in homes is dangerous in any significant quantity. In addition to increasing explosion risks— especially in old pipes and leaky connections inside homes— it's a polluting combustion fuel that produces health harming nitrogen oxides when burned. Children in homes with gas stoves are already [42% more likely to get asthma](#) than kids in homes with electric stoves, and hydrogen blending could make that disparity even worse.

Hydrogen is expensive for the average resident— whether that cost is hidden by government subsidies (i.e. taxpayer's hard-earned money) or born directly. Per million BTUs, the [lowest cost hydrogen is about twice the cost of natural gas](#)— and the cost of grey, blue, and turquoise hydrogen will go up and down with the cost of natural gas because they are made from it.

Hydrogen in residential pipelines is a climate and energy efficiency boondoggle: It's likely to increase emissions and could use more than [double the methane gas](#) to produce the same amount of energy. Electrification with energy-efficient heat pumps and induction stoves is several times more efficient, and heat pumps provide life-saving cooling in the same appliance.

Hydrogen as an energy source belongs only in niche cases where electrification is not yet possible. And only green hydrogen (electrolytic made according to the [three pillars](#) of additional, time-matched, and deliverable carbon-free electricity) should be used. Please see our

[previously submitted report](#) for more information and further references.

With appreciation to all the legislators striving for climate justice, health, safety, and affordability, we urge you to pass this bare minimum notification bill SB 685 and then improve upon it.

Helena Birecki
interim Chair
Climate Reality Project Portland Chapter

About The Climate Reality Project Portland Chapter

The Climate Reality Project (CRP) Portland Chapter is a local, volunteer-led chapter of The Climate Reality Project, an international nonprofit of 5 million members led by climate leader and former US Vice President Al Gore, whose mission is to catalyze global solutions to the climate crisis. Our legislative committee bases its advocacy on CRP's 5 pillars: a just transition to clean energy, zero carbon transportation, climate justice and public health, green communities, and a fair, representative democracy. climaterealitypdx.com/, www.climaterealityproject.org