



May 7, 2025

House Climate, Energy & Environment
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem Oregon 97301

Re: SB 685A - SUPPORT

Dear Chair Lively, Vice Chairs Gamba and Levy, and Members of the Committee,

Climate Solutions is a regional nonprofit working to accelerate clean energy solutions to the climate crisis. On behalf of our thousands of members statewide, **we urge you to support SB 685A as a responsible step to protect both Oregon communities and the future of Oregon's hydrogen industry.**

The Senate Committee on Energy and Environment advanced SB 685A with bipartisan support, and received extensive industry and community stakeholder input to inform a balanced approach to enable our state's energy, environmental, and community objectives. SB 685A acknowledges customer and community preferences on information availability, transparency, and engagement, while creating clear expectations for our growing local hydrogen industry.

Climate Solutions strongly supports renewable hydrogen, particularly green electrolytic hydrogen, as an important tool for reducing emissions from industry and other hard-to-decarbonize sectors of Oregon's economy. We have supported past legislative efforts to clarify and advance renewable hydrogen policy, including strong support for HB 2530 (2023). Our organization also serves on the board of the Pacific Northwest Hydrogen Association (PNWH2) Hub, which is working to scale up green hydrogen production in the region through strategic leveraging of federal funding.

Like the impacted community members who testified in front of the committee, we were surprised to learn that NW Natural was able to begin their blending pilot in Portland without notifying customers or the Public Utility Commission (PUC). SB 685A addresses this gap with a common-sense solution: a basic notice requirement. It would be hard to imagine that a water utility could start blending something into our water without notifying customers, especially if they were going to be paying a higher cost for it. This is no different. That's why we support this legislation as a step toward ensuring transparency.

Utilities communicate regularly with their customers through monthly bills, newsletters and bill inserts sharing information about projects, safety, and more. Utilities also communicate regularly with the PUC.

SB 685A just ensures hydrogen blending is included in that communication when hydrogen reaches 2.5% of the gas in the system, or by 2030, whichever comes first.

Oregon has the opportunity to support the burgeoning green electrolytic hydrogen industry and ensure this resource is strategically deployed into our economy where we need it most. We believe it is essential for the growth and success of the industry, and for the clean energy solutions it offers, that we channel renewable hydrogen towards its highest and best uses, and pursue those use cases with thoughtful community engagement.

As we pursue green hydrogen as a clean energy solution, there are serious environmental and consumer justice considerations around issues like safety, air quality and costs that require a thoughtful approach. SB 685A amendment is a step towards thoughtful engagement with impacted communities.

Oregon families have the right to know what is being delivered to and burned in their homes, and what the implications of changes to their gas supply may be for their health, safety and wallets. Utilities in particular, with their direct access to customers and their homes, have a responsibility to respect that access and communicate with their customers.

Oregon has the chance to lead on renewable hydrogen while building public trust, creating good jobs, and decarbonizing industry. Community transparency and engagement are key to that leadership.

Thank you for your consideration, and we once again urge your support for SB 685A.

Sincerely,

Claire Prihoda
Buildings Policy Manager
Climate Solutions