

COIN Legislative Session Worksheet for 2025

Bill Number: **SB685-1**

Brief Description of Bill (maximum 100 words):

This bill would require natural gas utilities to provide minimal public notice to customers when hydrogen blending is introduced into residential natural gas heating pipes. The base bill required pre-approval by customers; however, the -1 amendment removed the pre-approval feature and requires only advance public notice.

Specifically, the bill requires that the natural gas utility company provide: 1) notification to the PUC prior to blending, with information on safety, 2) advance notice to affected customers and 3) notification of local fire and health departments for purposes of potential emergency preparedness.

Name of Point Person who completed this form: Patti Kramer

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Last Updated: 2/19/25

1. Research topic – choose which category best fits your bill:

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☒ Climate, Energy Environment | ☐ Housing/Houselessness |
| ☐ Campaign Finance Reform | ☐ Immigration/Social Justice |
| ☐ Healthcare/Gun Safety | ☐ Education |
| ☐ Transportation | ☐ Economics |
| ☐ Criminal Justice | ☐ Gun Safety |
| ☐ Other describe: Click or tap here to enter text. | |

2. The bill's Legislative champions – Chief Sponsors: Senators Pham and Golden

Regular Sponsors: Representatives Gamba, Chotzen, Nosse; Senators Campos, Manning, Taylor and Gorsek

3. The bill's legislative opponents: unclear

4. What advocacy groups are supporting this bill and why are they supporting it? Provide contact information if available. (maximum 200 words)

OCEN, SOCAN, MCAT (though their published summary misrepresents the intent and scope of the bill), citizen groups.

Supporters are concerned with the safety of 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). The point at which significant

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carbon extraction occurs in the blending process (10-20%) borders on levels of hydrogen that are unsafe.

5. What groups are opposing this bill and why are they opposing it? (maximum 200 words) NW Natural Gas, Pipefitters Union.

Opponents see this bill as “the beginning of the end” of hydrogen innovation and technology in Oregon. Hydrogen innovation companies will leave the state and jobs will be lost. Notification of residential customers will delay projects and result in additional costs to ratepayers.

6. Reasons COIN should take a position on this bill. Choose all that apply:

☒ Progressive groups across the state care strongly about this.

☐ This Bill protects or expands the rights of marginalized populations.

☐ This bill helps change the structures of the democratic system to make it work better.

☐ This issue is controlled by the state or states have a great deal of power in it.

☐ Other

7. What is the likelihood this bill will pass? unclear

8. List the relevant dates concerning the bill(s)-(scheduled committee hearings, votes, lobby days, other scheduled advocacy, phone banks, post card parties, etc).

In Senate Committee on Energy and Environment

PH 2/10/25, continued on 2/12/25

9. Please list any specific advocacy action you would like COIN to help with, any media contacts that may be helpful or any other important information?