

SB 995

Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee

Dear Mr. Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Joe Westby and I am the Director of Operations for Ferrellgas in the Portland / Salem areas. I am also the Chair for our association's Oregon Governmental Affairs Committee. Our industry and association is opposed to SB 995. This bill requires an employer operating certain facilities to submit annual materials balance report on facility's input and output of hazardous materials to Department of Environmental Quality.

The Oregon State Fire Marshal (OSFM) tells us that retail propane dealers might be caught under the regulations of this bill. Propane dealers have been faithfully reporting already for decades under the Community Right to Know program administered by OSFM, or the Tier II program. We do not feel that our reporting the same kinds of information to the Department of Environmental Quality is necessary or a wise use of the state's limited resources.

• PROPANE IS NOT THE PROBLEM

- Propane is registered by the federal government as a clean fuel.
- Propane usually dissipates in the air when it is released as a gas.
- Propane does not pollute groundwater or the environment.
- Propane is not a "biopersistent substance" as defined in HB 2669, yet it would be included in the higher fees and increased reporting burden. **The bill should focus on biopersistent substances rather than pulling in other reporters.** Local communities can create their own community right to know programs now if they like, constructing them to their own specifications. Under HB 2669, every local program would have to use the same template.
- **SB 995 would be an additional program in another agency – DEQ.** You don't need to be reporting twice.

We encourage you to amend the bill so it does not include propane or other substances which are already being reported.

Sincerely,

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