



PRESS RELEASE

OREGON HOUSE DEMOCRATS

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Fracking Moratorium Passes Oregon House

Legislation puts 10-year ban in place on hydraulic fracturing

SALEM – The Oregon House of Representatives voted today to put a moratorium in place for the controversial oil and gas well development practice of hydraulic fracturing, also known as “fracking.”

“To me, this bill is about protecting Oregonians,” Rep. Fahey said. “There have been significant correlations found between fracking and adverse impacts on water, air quality, and public health in other states with fracking operations in place. I believe that Oregon is not prepared to fully regulate fracking activities within our state.”

[House Bill 2623](#) institutes a 10-year moratorium on the practice of hydraulic fracturing. The process uses water, sand, and chemicals pumped under high pressure into bedrock fissures to release oil and gas. In places across the country, the practice has polluted ground water and even been linked to earthquakes.

“Oregon’s natural beauty should be cherished and protected,” said bill sponsor Rep. Rachel Prusak (D-West Linn). “This legislation is a common sense proposal to ensure that no one engages in this potentially destructive practice while we work to better understand its long-term impacts.”

Rep. Julie Fahey (D-West Eugene and Junction City) was the chief sponsor of the legislation.

Joining Rep. Fahey as a chief sponsor of the legislation are Rep. Helm and Sen. James Manning (D-Eugene). Sponsors of the bill are Rep. Alissa Keny-Guyer (D-Portland), Rep. John Lively (D-Springfield), Rep. Pam Marsh (D-Ashland), Rep. Tiffany Mitchell (D-Astoria), Rep. Rob Nosse (D-Portland), Rep. Karin Power (D-Milwaukie), Rep. Prusak, Rep. Tawna Sanchez (D-Portland), Rep. Barbara Smith Warner (D-Portland), Rep. Janeen Sollman (D-Hillsboro), and Rep. Marty Wilde (D-Central Linn and Lane Counties).

“I am pleased that this legislation received bipartisan support today,” said Rep. Helm, a chief sponsor who has long championed the fracking moratorium. “When it comes to protecting this state, we all have a vested interest in being thoughtful about how we regulate new industries that could have significant long-term impacts.”

This bill continues the Oregon House Democrats’ work of protecting our environment and defending Oregon’s natural beauty through policies that protect the air we breathe, the water we drink, the outdoor recreation we enjoy and the natural resources our state depends on.

The legislation, which passed House 42 to 12, goes to the Oregon Senate for consideration.

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