



SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

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‘Fracking’ ban bill goes to Gov. Kate Brown for signature

HB 2623: Imposes statewide ban on hydraulic fracturing in Oregon

SALEM – The practice of fracking in the exploration and production of oil or gas will be banned until 2025, under a bill passed by the Oregon Senate.

[House Bill 2623](#) – which passed the Senate on a 17-11 vote today – now goes to Gov. Kate Brown for her signature. In addition to placing a moratorium on fracking for oil or gas production and exploration, the bill exempts natural gas storage wells, geothermal activities and existing coal bed methane extraction wells.

“This bill will put a stop to a dangerous and environmentally damaging practice in Oregon,” said Sen. James Manning (D-Eugene), a chief co-sponsor of the bill. “We don’t want oil and gas companies to come in and start wasting our water and damaging our environment to make a buck. It dirties our water and pollutes our planet.”

Hydraulic fracturing – also known as fracking – involves injecting water, sand and chemicals under high pressure into bedrock formations through wells. The process creates new fractures in the rock and increases the size and connectivity of existing fractures. The technique allows gas, oil or hot water inside the rock to flow more effectively into the well for extraction.

Though the technology has existed since the 1960s, its use – in combination with advances in horizontal drilling – has led to a major increase in United States oil and gas production in recent years. In Oregon, hydraulic fracturing requires permits and is regulated by the Department of

Geology and Mineral Industries, Department of Environmental Quality and the Water Resources Department.

“HB 2623 is a straight-forward bill that reflects Oregon’s priorities to combat climate change and wean our economy off fossil fuels,” Climate Solutions Oregon State Director Meredith Connolly said. “The devastating impacts of fracturing on numerous communities around the country further demonstrates the foolhardiness of expanding fractured gas exploration and production. Prohibiting fractured gas production also sends an important signal to Oregon’s natural gas utilities and distributors that Oregon is not interested in expanding its reliance on fossil fuel-based gas. Instead, we need to develop alternatives such as renewable natural gas and shift to clean sources of electricity.”

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