

April 5, 2015

House Energy and Environment Committee

Beth Patrino

Please submit my Testimony for Public Record my opposition to HB3145
I will not be able to attend.

Chair Vega Pederson, and members of the committee,

I'm Bob Sowdon, Cottage Grove, an analyst for the Oregon Citizens Lobby.

I urge a NO vote to not put a 10-year moratorium on use of hydraulic fracturing for oil and gas exploration and production.

Fracking has been going on since the 1950s, today, the combination of advanced hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling, employing cutting-edge technologies, are the reason for the surge in US Production. [1]

Fracking is letting the U.S. tap vast oil and natural gas reserves that previously were locked away in shale and other tight-rock formations. Up to 80% percent of natural gas wells drilled in the next decade will require hydraulic fracturing. It has been reported that the *"Coos Bay Basin still has potential for future gas production; there have been at least nine Fracking wells in Oregon."* [11]

Risk is minimal when procedures are followed for the Environment, Safety and Health Hazard. The vertical well is encased in steel and/or cement to ensure the well doesn't run the risk of leaking into any groundwater.

Jobs will be created, *"Each gas well requires an average of 400 tanker trucks to carry water and supplies to and from the site."* [2]

"Only 30-50% of the fracturing fluid is recovered, the rest of the toxic fluid is left in the ground and is not biodegradable. The waste fluid is left in open air pits to evaporate, releasing harmful VOC's (volatile organic compounds)" [2]

Flowback fluid is stored on the fracking site in pits, injected into deep underground wells or recycled, either at a Water Treatment facility or returned back to the Earth from whence it came. There can be more jobs with the need for improved facilities in the smaller towns as there will be a need as demand increases with more regulation on Coal. The amount of fracturing fluid recovered is debatable and will vary from site to site.

What stays in the ground will be sealed.

"Even with the sand propping open the cracks, the weight of the overlying rock will, over months and years, cause the cracks to close and the rock's permeability return to about what it was before the fracking." [3]

*“There have been over **1,000** documented cases of water contamination”* [2]
With 67 years of Fracking, you would think the internet would be full of cases. There is not, one that was prominent in Bradford County, Pa, was because the well malfunctioned in 2011.

“Public perception driven largely by media hype over the hydraulic fracturing (“fracking”) process encourages a rush to judgment over the causative effects. In litigation, the defense must divest the jury of knee-jerk judgments by bringing the science back into the analysis.” In Defense of Texas Fracking Litigation By: Wendy May and Lauren Braddy. [6]

I would argue that much of the hysteria is propagated by *350.org*. [7] I have heard them speak at the Oregon Global Warming Commission with emotion and no factual evidence, as they are organized around the world with the premise that the ppm of Carbon is causing the Earth to warm, is false as Carbon follows Temperature. [8] [9] They state that the level over 350ppm was going to be catastrophic, now that the level is 400+ and the Global Temperature has not climbed for close to two decades, with that increase, the IPCC itself finally admitted the “pause” in its latest report. [9]

Please do not stifle the potential for economic development and jobs in Oregon.

Thank you,

Bob Sowdon
Cottage Grove, Or.

Resources / footnotes

1. <http://www.what-is-fracking.com/>
2. <http://dangersoffracking.com/>
3. <http://www.livescience.com/34464-what-is-fracking.html>
4. http://energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2013/03/f0/ShaleGasPrimer_Online_4-2009.pdf
5. https://www.osha.gov/dts/hazardalerts/hydraulic_frac_hazard_alert.html
6. http://www.hdbdlaw.com/downloads/article_defense_texas_fracking_litigation.pdf
7. <http://350.org/over-thousand-protest-fracking-albany-ny/>
8. <http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/07/23/new-research-in-antarctica-shows-co2-follows-temperature-by-a-few-hundred-years-at-most/>
9. <http://www.sciencebits.com/IceCoreTruth>
10. <http://nypost.com/2013/12/05/global-warming-proof-is-evaporating/>
11. http://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php/Oregon_and_fracking