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April 7, 2015

TO: Representative Jessica Vega Pederson, Chair, House Committee on Energy and Environment
Members, House Committee on Energy and Environment

FR: Rikki Seguin, Lead Advocate, Environment Oregon

RE: Support of HB 3415

On behalf of our over 40,000 members and supporters across the state, **Environment Oregon supports HB 3415**. Environment Oregon is a statewide, citizen-based, environmental advocacy organization.

Fracking is posing a staggering array of threats to our health and environment, and until we fully ban this practice, there is no way to guarantee protection of our natural heritage or to keep our drinking water safe. HB 3415 is a step in the right direction for Oregon and will provide the state with ten years to determine how to proceed on the issue.

In the decade since the fracking boom began nationally, we have seen drilling operations contaminate drinking water, pollute air, and threaten the health of nearby residents. Fracking has turned treasured landscapes into industrial zones from Colorado to Pennsylvania, and waste pits have contaminated groundwater at more than 400 sites in New Mexico alone. **Oregon is far too special to allow this to become our reality.**

Key facts nationally:

- 280 billion gallons of toxic wastewater generated in 2012,
- 250 billion gallons of fresh water used since 2005,
- 360,000 acres of land degraded since 2005,
- 100 million metric tons of global warming pollution since 2005.

Given the scale and severity of fracking's myriad impacts, constructing a regulatory regime sufficient to protect the environment and public health from dirty drilling — much less enforcing such safeguards at wells, processing and waste disposal sites — seems implausible, and at minimum would take years. It is crucial that Oregon get out in front of this issue, and act now to safeguard our air, water, open spaces, and public health. **Environment Oregon urges a yes vote on HB 3415.**