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June 7, 2015

TO: Representative Dan Rayfield and Senator Richard Devlin, Co-Chairs, Joint Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Natural Resources
Members, Joint Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Natural Resources

FR: Rikki Seguin, Lead Advocate, Environment Oregon

RE: Opposition of HB 3415A

On behalf of our over 40,000 members and supporters across the state, **Environment Oregon opposed HB 3415A.** 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. We originally supported HB 3415, a moratorium on the dangerous practice, as a step in the right direction for Oregon, providing the state with ten years to determine how to proceed on the issue. The engrossed version, HB 3415A, is not the right first step to take. It requires an audit of current fracking regulations and an examination of regulations in place in other states. The examination of any regulations weaker than a ban or moratorium will yield a result that is too weak for Oregon, our drinking water, and our health.

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. HB 3415A is the wrong step for Oregon to take - **Environment Oregon urges a NO vote on HB 3415A.**