



HB 2711

Testimony of WaterWatch of Oregon Submitted to the House Energy and Environment Committee

March 8, 2017

Founded in 1985, WaterWatch is a non-profit river conservation group dedicated to the protection and restoration of natural flows in Oregon's rivers. We work to ensure that enough water is protected in Oregon's rivers to sustain fish, wildlife, recreation and other public uses of Oregon's rivers, lakes and streams. We also work for balanced water laws and policies. WaterWatch has members across Oregon who care deeply about our rivers, their inhabitants and the effects of water laws and policies on these resources.

WaterWatch supports HB 2711

HB 2711 would impose a moratorium until December 31, 2026 on the practice of hydraulic fracturing in the exploration for and production of oil and gas in Oregon.

Hydraulic fracturing, known as "fracking", is dependent upon the use of large amounts of fresh water. In Oregon, eighteen out of nineteen of our river basins are over appropriated in the spring, summer and fall months, meaning there is no water left to give. Groundwater supplies also are being strained, as has been recently highlighted in Harney County. Climate change and increasing incidences of drought are also impacting Oregon's water supplies.

Against a backdrop where many farmers, cities and fish already do not have access to adequate water supplies to serve their needs, a temporary moratorium on fracking is a prudent step in safeguarding Oregon's water future.

We urge the Committee to support HB 2711.

Thank you for consideration of our comments.

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