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March 7, 2017

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House Committee on Energy and Environment
Honorable Ken Helm, Chair
Oregon House of Representatives
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

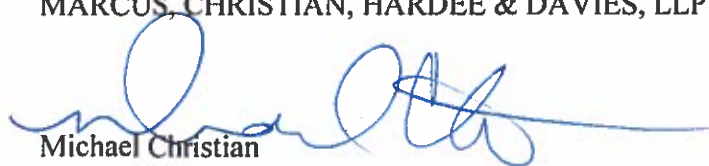
Re: HB 2711

Dear Chairman Helm and Committee Members:

I represent Alta Mesa Holdings, LP. Through a subsidiary, Alta Mesa holds leases with mineral owners in eastern Oregon. Alta Mesa has drilled commercial hydrocarbon wells in Idaho, and anticipates that its exploration efforts will extend into Oregon. The geology of the area is such that the wells drilled by Alta Mesa in western Idaho are vertical and do not require hydraulic fracturing. As commonly used in shale formations, hydraulic fracturing involves injection of up to several million gallons of fluid at high pressure in order to propagate fractures 100' or longer. However, the definition of hydraulic fracturing used in HB 2711 is much broader, and could preclude low-volume, near-wellbore well stimulation activities that are a standard part of conventional drilling operations. I expect this was not the intent of the bill, and urge the committee to reject the bill in its current form. At a minimum, the bill should be amended so as not to impede conventional oil and gas wellbore operations.

Very truly yours,

MARCUS, CHRISTIAN, HARDEE & DAVIES, LLP


Michael Christian

MC:

cc: David Pepper, Alta Mesa Holdings, LP