



March 7, 2017

Representative Ken Helm, Chair
House Energy and Environment Committee
Oregon State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Re: HB 2711

Chair Helm and Members of the Committee,

We write in support of HB 2711, which would impose a ten-year moratorium on the use of hydraulic fracturing for oil and gas in Oregon. Climate Solutions is a regional non-profit working to accelerate practical and profitable solutions to global warming. Climate Solutions strongly supports the transition from fossil fuels to clean, renewable energy as essential to achieving Oregon's legislated greenhouse gas reduction goals and safeguarding the health and wellbeing of all Oregonians.

HB 2711 not only protects our precious water resources in the state, but also positions Oregon as a leader in the transition to clean energy nationwide. Hydraulic fracturing (or "fracking") requires excessive amounts of fresh water, and threatens to pollute our groundwater with chemicals and even trigger earthquakes.¹ The risks of leakage of methane – a powerful greenhouse gas pollutant contributing to climate change – increase as fracking, wells and pipelines increase too.² During the hydraulic fracking process, studies have found that "fugitive" or uncaptured methane escape. Forty different types of equipment have been identified as potential sources of escaped methane.³ Methane is a potent greenhouse gas—over 84 times more powerful in a 20-year time frame than carbon dioxide, the most abundant greenhouse gas. Methane leaks accelerate the rate of climate change, meaning even small leaks cumulate to increase climate destabilization.⁴ These contamination and climate pollution risks are too great for our watersheds, environment and climate to bear.

We urge you to vote for this bill for Oregon's health and safety. Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Meredith Connolly".

Meredith Connolly
Oregon Policy Manager

¹ <https://www.propublica.org/article/buried-secrets-is-natural-gas-drilling-endangering-us-water-supplies-1113>

² <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2016/may/29/fracking-contribute-climate-change>

³ http://e360.yale.edu/features/on_fracking_front_a_push_to_reduce_leaks_of_methane

⁴ <https://www.edf.org/climate/aliso-canyon-leak-sheds-light-national-problem>