



**WaterWatch of Oregon**  
**Protecting Natural Flows In Oregon Rivers**

**HB 2623**

**Testimony of WaterWatch of Oregon**  
**By Kimberley Priestley**

**Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources**

**April 23, 2019**

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 2623**

HB 2623 would impose a moratorium on the practice of hydraulic fracturing in the exploration for and production of oil and gas in Oregon until January 1, 2030. 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 support new uses. Groundwater supplies are also strained, as is evidenced by the situations in Klamath, Harney and Umatilla basins, among other areas. Climate change and increasing incidences of drought are also impacting 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 2623.

Thank you for your consideration.

Contact: Kimberley Priestley, WaterWatch of Oregon, 503-295-4039 x 3, [kjp@waterwatch.org](mailto:kjp@waterwatch.org)