



Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 2623 (Fracking Moratorium)

To: Senate Committee On Environment and Natural Resources

From: Central Oregon LandWatch

Date: April 23, 2019

Mr. Chair, members of the Committee:

On behalf of Central Oregon LandWatch, we enthusiastically urge your SUPPORT of HB 2623, which seeks to effect a ban on “fracking” for exploration and production of fossil fuels in order to better preserve our wildlife resources and ecosystems.

Central Oregon LandWatch has a mission of achieving a responsible, balanced approach to planning for and conserving Oregon's land and water resources east of the Cascades, while recognizing the needs of future generations.

Since there are not currently any active oil or gas fracking operations in Oregon, this measure will not have any adverse effects on any current operations. Rather, the measure proactively prevents a practice that has been linked to a number of highly destructive ecological effects.

Without a moratorium, a significant amount of freshwater resources may be squandered by exploratory fracking practices. Instead, this measure will protect those water resources for Oregon's agricultural, ecological, and human needs.

HB 2623 is a prudent step in ensuring that the destructive effects of fracking are not welcomed to Oregon. Please vote AYE on HB 2623.