

Southern Oregon Climate Action Now

**SOCAN**

Confronting Climate Change

<https://socan.eco>

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Co-facilitator

Southern Oregon Climate Action Now

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Chair Dembrow

Members of the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

I write on behalf of some 1500 southern Oregonians who are Southern Oregon Climate Action Now in connection with HB2623, a bill to prohibit the use of hydraulic fracturing for oil and gas exploration and production within the state.

For many years Oregonians, including members of the legislature, have been working on legislation to address the problem of global warming greenhouse gas emissions in the state of Oregon. While we recognize that Oregon's contribution to the global problem is small, we also recognize that if we wish to gain the credibility and moral authority to ask other jurisdictions to reduce their emissions, we must first reduce ours.

While HB2020 takes a credible step towards meaningful greenhouse gas emissions reductions in the state, we know there are many other activities that can contribute to the problem. Studies undertaken over the last four to five years on greenhouse gas emissions resulting from hydraulic fracturing have revealed that the extend of fugitive emissions of natural gas (90% methane) turn natural gas from a 'bridge to the future,' to a 'bridge to nowhere,' as Robert Howarth has called it.

Indeed, Howarth and colleagues, along with other researchers have undertaken 'bottom up' and 'top down' analyses of methane emissions from fracking, and emissions resulting from the subsequent processing and transmission of the gas so extracted. These have revealed that far from being an improvement over coal as a source of energy, natural gas may actually be worse than coal in terms of the greenhouse gas emissions it produces.

But fugitive emissions of methane are not the only problem that fracking poses. Since the Halliburton loophole was introduced in the 2005 Energy Policy Act during the G.W. Bush administration - at the behest of Vice-president Dick Cheney, the Environmental Protection Agency does not regulate under the Safe Drinking Water Act the known

toxic, and even carcinogenic, chemicals contained in the cocktail injected underground, into our groundwater, during the fracturing protocol.

A plethora of studies have revealed threats posed by fracking to drinking water, not to mention heightened earthquake risk. We must add to this concern the absolute failure of the current federal EPA to undertake any efforts to protect the public, the environment, and our wildlife from corporate activities. These concerns combine to render it incongruous that any state claiming concern for the health of its environment and its residents would countenance granting permission for fracking to occur within its borders.

For these reasons, we urge you to support HB2623, but reject the amendment advancing the date of repeal from 2030 to 2025. If any adjustment were to be considered here, it should be to delete reference to a repeal date.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alan Journet". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Alan Journet Ph.D.  
Co-facilitator  
Southern Oregon Climate Action Now