



Oregon Environmental Council
It's Your Oregon



Vote Yes on House Bill 2623

On behalf of the undersigned organizations and our hundreds of thousands of members and supporters across Oregon, we encourage you to vote in favor of House Bill 2623. As organizations committed to moving beyond fossil fuels in Oregon, we believe that HB 2623 is worthy of your support.

HB 2623 institutes a 10-year moratorium on hydraulic fracturing – or “fracking” – for oil and gas in our state. Given the indisputable impacts of fracking in other states on surface water, ground water, and public health, among other things, we would be very concerned if oil and gas fracking were to occur in Oregon.

However, because there are currently no oil or gas fracking operations in Oregon, there would be no immediate operational or economic impacts from imposing a moratorium in our state. In addition, because this moratorium applies only to oil and gas fracking, it would not affect similar hydraulic fracturing processes used for geothermal energy, such as those that have been proposed for the Newberry Volcano area in central Oregon.

Ultimately, what HB 2623 will do is allow us to take our time in figuring out how to address the known concerns about fracking for oil and gas before they become a problem here. While we do not believe that there is any “safe” or environmentally responsible way to frack, this bill lets us take the time to look closely at the devastating impacts that oil and gas fracking has had across the country and to figure out how to avoid such issues in Oregon. We cannot stand by and ignore the hazards that fracking could bring to our state, so we believe that a moratorium is entirely appropriate.

Please vote yes on House Bill 2623.

Thank you,

Audubon Society of Portland
Beyond Toxics
Central Oregon Landwatch
Climate Solutions
Environment Oregon
League of Women Voters of Oregon

Oregon Environmental Council
Oregon Land and Water Alliance
Oregon League of Conservation Voters
Oregon Natural Desert Association
Sierra Club, Oregon Chapter
WaterWatch of Oregon

From the desk of Rep Julie Fahey



3/14/19