

Southern Oregon Climate Action Now

SOCAN

Confronting Climate Change

<https://socan.eco>

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Representative Karin Power

Members of the House Committee on Energy and Environment

Chairperson Power and Members of the Committee:

I write on behalf of the 1500 Southern Oregonians who are Southern Oregon Climate Action Now to express support for HB 4105.

With regard to global warming and its climate change consequences, the science is very clear in that assuring our children and grandchildren of a livable future on this planet demands that we limit the temperature increase generated by our emissions of greenhouse gases to maximally 1.5°C (2.7°F) above pre-industrial conditions. The IPCC warned that this requires that we reduce our greenhouse gas emissions 45% below 20-10 levels by 2030, just ten year away, and to net zero by 2050.

In order to achieve these necessary targets, we absolutely must recognize the need to leave the vast majority of our fossil fuel reserves in the ground. This will require a substantial effort to transition away from fossil fuel energy resources and towards renewable energy. This transition will require a profound re-evaluation of our energy economy.

Clearly, the transition will involve the elimination of taxpayer subsidies for all fossil fuels. When considering which fossil fuels to extract and which to leave in the ground, we should apply two criteria: (a) those fossil fuels with the lowest Energy Return On Energy Invested (EROEI) such as shale and tar sands fuels, should earn the first rejections (b) resources extracted by methods that impose environmental and health hazards, such as open pit/mountain top mining and hydraulic fracturing, should also be rejected.

In addition, we should review our practice of automatically granting transportation routes for fuels the shipment of which poses hazards. Considering the social cost imposed on humanity and all life on the planet through the emissions of greenhouse gases from the extraction, processing, transmission / transport, and combustion of fossil fuels it also makes abundantly good sense for us to look skeptically at the custom of giving such activities a free pass.

For these reasons, we urge upon the House Energy and Environment Committee a favorable consideration of House Bill (HB) 4105 introduced by Rep. Karin Powers, Rep Rob Nosse with Senator Jeff Golden and Rep Pam Marsh scheduled for a Hearing before the House Energy and Environment Committee on the 11th of February at 1:00 pm in Hearing Room D.

The Bill makes a rational effort to stimulate the needed reevaluation of our long-standing love affair with fossil fuels by:

- Prohibiting state agencies from authorizing construction of new infrastructure for exploration, development or production of oil or gas on state-owned real property or for transportation of oil or gas across state-owned real property.
- Requiring facilities unloading oil or gas received by rail to provide advance notice to Department of Transportation.

In a future that we know should include leaving fossil fuels in the ground, this would represent a step forward. For these reasons, Southern Oregon Climate Action Now encourages support for HB4105.

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alan Journet". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "A".

Alan Journet Ph.D.

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