Rep. Ken Helm District 34 H-490



Fracking Moratorium Places a 10-year moratorium on fracking. HB 3415

Oregon had a short history of hydraulic fracturing in the past. Five wells were fracked between 2005 and 2006 but stopped when the original owners filed for bankruptcy. Currently there is no activity in our state, but that may change at any time. Below is a map from the Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (2014).

Hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, uses up to 5 million gallons of water per well. This method usually includes the use of sand and/or chemicals, which are used to treat the rock in order to increase production.



Potential impacts of fracturing:

• Surface disturbance – may affect endangered species and other animal populations.

• Surface water – runoff from drilling fluids may join nearby streams/rivers.

• **Ground water** – co-mingling of fresh water zones with saline or gasbearing fluids.

• **Public health & safety** – well blowout is a fire danger to surrounding areas; fracking may also substantially affect air and drinking water pollution.

• New methods and technologies – fracking has expanded to new techniques like acidization, the use of corrosive acids to dissolve the rock for higher production.

**Objective:** 

> Places a 10 year moratorium on hydraulic fracturing in Oregon **OR** until DOGAMI, LCDC and DEQ coordinate to develop specific rules for regulating the process, whichever is less.

Key Points:

- > Places a moratorium until December  $31^{st}$ , 2025.
- > Protects current wells operated by NW Natural.
- > Protects geothermal energy exploration.