

**From:** [Keith LaHaie](#)  
**To:** [HEE Exhibits](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony in Opposition to HB4105  
**Date:** Monday, February 10, 2020 1:31:42 PM

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Dear Members of the House Committee On Energy and Environment,

I am strongly opposed to HB4105 and any other prohibitions on the production and transport of fossil fuels on state lands and property. This legislation is a direct result of the increasing climate hysteria and environmental extremism promoted by groups such as Renew Oregon and Southern Oregon Climate Action.

What purpose is there for this bill other than to pander to environmental extremist groups? It also seems to serve as just another attack on Oregon's prosperity and standard of living. Fossil fuels power Oregon and the rest of the world and will for the foreseeable future, whether the climate lobby likes it or not. Many jobs are sustained and will continue to be created by the fossil fuel industry, and the Legislature should not stand in the way of that.

Of course, as with so many of the other bills being proposed this session, there is no statement of financial impact attached to this bill. It is possible that it will be minimal, given that there are no oil reserves in this state, and that we haven't had an operating refinery since 2008. However, it could be very impactful, with major projects such as the Jordan Cove LNG terminal on the line, along with the apparently unknown impacts to the transportation of fossil fuels in general.

The bill text indicates that passage will result in a prohibition on "the transportation of oil or gas across state-owned real property" – are we to interpret this to mean that the transportation of petroleum products on state-owned highways will be prohibited as well? If that's not the case, it should be explicitly called out in the text. Otherwise, this is tantamount to a near outright ban on fossil fuels in Oregon. In my opinion, this ambiguity is a fatal flaw, and HB4105 should be rejected on that basis alone.

On a personal note – as someone whose primary source of home heating is propane, this bill could significantly affect the cost of We're currently paying almost \$4.00 per gallon for propane fuel – that translates into nearly \$4,000 annually. We're already burning quite a bit of wood to offset some of these costs, and we'll burn more if that's what it takes – is that what you want?

The Legislature should be doing everything in its power to leverage the value of state-owned properties. If it means opening state lands for oil exploration and production – so be it! You all do remember the \$50 billion PERS liability that needs to be dealt with, right? I'm sure there are other unfunded liabilities lurking around as well. Radical ideology doesn't pay the bills, so it has no place in this discussion. Taxpayers own these properties, and they should be providing the maximum return on our investment.

Oregon has already foolishly banned fracking, as well as offshore drilling. The environmental lobby is against oil and pipelines, and now this. Please stop. We can see where this is all going, and we don't like it.

The only provision in this bill that seems to make sense is the limitation on vapor pressure for oil and gas being transported in rail cars. That seems to be a reasonable safety measure (except in the case of propane), and coincides with regulations approved in other states, as well as at the Federal level. It appears that propane cannot comply with the 9 PSI vapor pressure requirement, due to the higher transport and storage pressure of propane in general. That is a real issue, given the number of residential and industrial propane users in this state, and the constraints that will be created if train transport is restricted. Propane (and perhaps other gases) should be exempt from this requirement. In the case of propane, I can find no evidence of a propane-related train accident in Oregon (one oil tanker train derailment in 2016, no propane). With that said, I completely support efforts to maximize safety and to eliminate environmental damage due to oil spills or gas releases. Unfortunately, that is not the emphasis of this bill.

Please focus on legislation that will benefit Oregonians – not punish them. I urge you to reject HB4105 without further consideration.

Thank you for your consideration.

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