

Testimony to the House Committee on Energy and Environment

February 11, 2020

Hogan M. Sherrow, Ph.D.

Director, Rural Oregon Climate Political Action Committee

Board Member, Southern Oregon Climate Action Now

Climate Leader, Climate Reality Project

Introduction

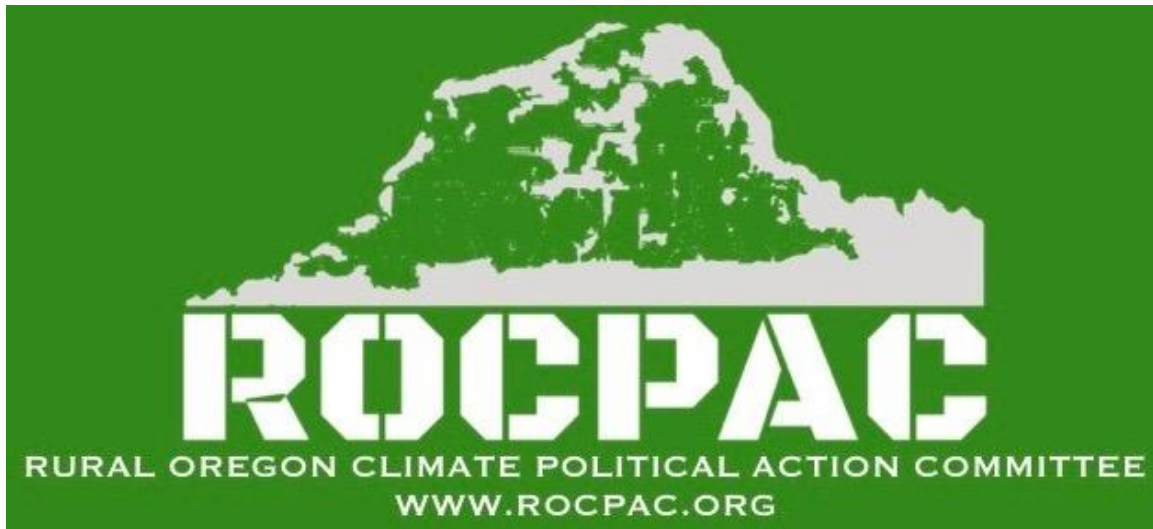
- Director of Rural Oregon Climate Political Action Committee, a grassroots political action committee established to provide a voice for rural Oregonians advocating for climate legislation at the state and local levels.
- Board Member of Southern Oregon Climate Action Now, with 5 years experience with the organization.
- Climate Leader with the Climate Reality Project, trained in 2012.
- Former research scientist, having studied the impacts of climate change on ecologies, humans, and animals for over ten years.
- Father of two.

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 Rural Oregon Climate Political Action Committee (ROCPAC) to express support for HB 4105.

With regard to climate change, the science is very clear. Anthropogenic climate change poses an existential threat to all life on the planet. The IPCC warned that we must reduce our greenhouse gas emissions 45% below 2010 levels by 2030, just ten years away, and to net zero by 2050.



In order to achieve these targets, we 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 sustainable 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 returned 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.

HB 4105 does a good job of addressing important issues regarding our energy extraction and consumption in Oregon:

- 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.

These are important steps in proactively determining our energy future in Oregon and ROCPAC supports HB 4105.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Hogan M. Sherrow, Ph.D.', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Hogan M. Sherrow, Ph.D.

Director, ROCPAC