



March 5, 2021

Senate Energy and Environment Committee

Sent Via Email To: ghgcr2021@state.or.us

RE: Support for Senate Bill 392

Dear Chair Beyer and Members of the Senate Energy and Environment Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment today. My name is Dan Serres and I am the Conservation Director for Columbia Riverkeeper. I am also a policy adviser to the Power Past Fracked Gas coalition. I would like to voice support for Senate Bill 392.

SB 392 accomplishes several important goals. First, the bill establishes more transparency about the impacts of fracked gas. The very action of considering this bill acknowledges that there are aspects of the fracked gas fuel cycle that go unnoticed and unaccounted for in our current regulation system. Thank you for taking the time to consider these impacts which often land disproportionately on vulnerable communities, including those in Oregon. Second, SB 392 hardens Oregon's regulatory system against manipulation by dishonest players in the energy industry. We all witnessed recent events in Texas, where millions of people went without power and heat in unusually cold weather due in part to poor planning in fracked gas-dependent utility systems. By building a better understanding of how our systems operate, including where they leak and waste energy and pollute, Oregon builds its resilience against future natural disasters.

In closing, I want to urge Oregon DEQ to use rigorous, science-based methods when undertaking its study of fugitive methane emissions. DEQ should consult with the Washington Department of Ecology, which recently went through a multi-year "trial by fire" on this issue, having to learn how to evaluate methane leakage issues diligently for a project that would have been the world's largest fracked gas-to-methanol refinery in Kalama, Washington. In particular, it is important for DEQ to incorporate and rely primarily on top-down assessments of methane leakage, such as those conducted through studies led by the Environmental Defense Fund in

collaboration with industry and academic partners. These studies are more robust in capturing methane releases than strictly bottom-up measurements, and DEQ will be well-served by reaching out to regulatory partners in the region to build this study.

Thank you for your work in addressing this issue, and we look forward to engaging further with you as the study develops.

Sincerely,

Dan Serres

Conservation Director, Columbia Riverkeeper