

May 4, 2024

Written testimony before House Finance Committee

By Natasha Léger, Executive Director, Citizens for a Healthy Community

RE: SB24-230: Concerning Support For Statewide Remediation Services That Positively Impact the Environment

CHC submits this written testimony in opposition to SB24-230. While we appreciate the effort to mitigate climate change and greenhouse gas emissions from oil and gas operations by funding clean transit enterprise and wildlife habitat resiliency and restoration, we strongly oppose this bill creating a long-term, unsustainable programmatic and budgetary dependency on the oil and gas industry.

Local and state government budgets and programs are already overly dependent on oil and gas revenues. This dependency, perceived or actual, on oil and gas production to fund for example schools, infrastructure, and water projects has been consistently used as justification to reject stricter regulation of the industry. Instead of creating yet another insidious budgetary dependency on oil and gas production, legislative efforts should be underway to reduce this dependency or addiction.

The oil and gas sector is the number one contributor to greenhouse gas emissions in the state, when taking the 20-year global warming potential for methane into consideration. Offsets are the answer.

We urge you to find another way to fund clean transit and wildlife habitat resiliency and restoration, and ask you to vote no on SB24-230.