

SB 2307

Senator Joan Heckaman

Chairman and Members of the Committee:

I am Senator Joan Heckaman from District 23 and am here to introduce SB 2307 to you this morning. This bill would help the energy industry by providing additional funds for plugging abandoned oil and gas wells as well as reclamation of those sites.

If you remember, the Emergency Commission provided \$16 million to the oil industry to plug and reclaim the land around them. Apparently, this was not going to get done before the deadline to expend all the money, and a request was then made by Mr. Lynn Helms to repurpose this money into grants of \$200,000 to companies to frack new wells.

The bill before you would address the need in the oil patch to clean up old well sites with additional funds added to the oil and gas well plugging and site reclamation fund.

Chairman, there will be additional testimony from those with more knowledge about the importance of increasing this fund. At this point I would stand for questions, but your questions may be best answered by those following me today.

Thank you for your time and I trust you will give this bill a good hearing.