



Senator Jeff Merkley

Keep It In the Ground Act: **Tackling Climate Change by Stopping New Fossil Fuel Projects on** **Federal Lands**

To avoid the most catastrophic impacts of climate change, we need to prevent average global temperatures from rising more than 2° Celsius. Already, climate change is contributing to negative impacts on our farming, fishing and forest industries and hurting our economy. An increase of over 2° Celsius would lead to more droughts, rising sea levels, the spread of dangerous wildfires, and the potential displacement of millions of people.

In order to tackle climate change and avoid 2° Celsius, 80 percent of the world's fossil fuels must stay in the ground.

Our society is still dependent on fossil fuels, but affordable and reliable technology exists to gradually transition to clean energy and clean transportation. Making that transition happen smoothly and efficiently should be a central priority of the federal government. A key starting point is to end the expansion of fossil fuel production on our public lands and waters.

Our nation's federal public lands and waters should be managed for the benefit of the American public. Rather than serving coal, oil, and gas companies, our federal lands policies should place the public first by aiding the transition away from fossil fuels and towards a cleaner energy future.

The *Keep It in the Ground Act* would take the important step of keeping over 90 percent of the potential carbon emissions from oil, gas and coal on our federal lands and federal waters underground forever.

Specifically, the bill would:

- Stop new leases and end nonproducing leases for coal, oil, gas, oil shale and tar sands on all Federal lands.
- Stop new leases and end nonproducing leases for offshore drilling in the Pacific and Gulf of Mexico.
- Prohibit offshore drilling in the Arctic and the Atlantic.