

# Clobber Fracking, Kill It Now, Call Corcoran

February 7, 2018



Jim Turner of [News Service of Florida](#), writes the following article.

*Simmons suggested a moratorium of two to five years on the practice, which is currently allowed in Florida, to provide time to delve into potential impacts.*

Mr. Simmons is living in the Dark Ages. If he does a minimum of research on fracking he will see that over 900 studies have been done, and we know very well the "potential impacts." Too well. This "kick-the-can-down-the-road ruse is so old it fools no one. Fracking is like climate change, it is not a belief nor a theory, we know the facts. We do not need a moratorium, we do not need a study, we need a ban.

Please follow the advice of Merrilee Malwitz-Jipson: Now the Speaker of the House needs to put its companion bill, HB 237, into House Committees. Representative Corcoran is the gatekeeper, tell him to let it come on in for the residents and visitors throughout Florida. Please call Speaker of the House

Richard Corcoran at 866.696.8249 and let him know HB 237 – the Fracking Ban Bill Deserves to be Heard! Call today!

Comments by OSFR historian Jim Tatum.

-A river is like a life: once taken, it cannot be brought back-

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## Senators try again to ban fracking in Florida

Jim Turner, News Service of Florida Published 11:23 a.m. CT Feb. 6, 2018 | Updated 1:09 p.m. CT Feb. 6, 2018

TALLAHASSEE – A measure that would ban the controversial oil- and natural-gas drilling process known as “fracking” is again on the move in the Senate.

However, the proposal remains sidelined in the House as the 60-day legislative session nears its midpoint.

The Senate Environmental Preservation and Conservation Committee voted unanimously Monday to approve the measure (SB 462).

But in voting for the measure, Sen. David Simmons, R-Altamonte Springs, cautioned that some compromise may be needed to get the House to act. Simmons suggested a moratorium of two to five years on the practice, which is currently allowed in Florida, to provide time to delve into potential impacts.

More: [Boot fracking out of Florida for good: Guestview](#)

“Never be afraid of the truth,” Simmons said after the meeting. “Make sure you get an independent analysis and permit everyone to show if there is a legitimate issue that exists.”

Bill sponsor Dana Young, R-Tampa, said after the meeting she didn't see a need to conduct another study when "adverse" impacts have been reported in other states, that include "groundwater contamination, surface water contamination, low birth-weight babies, health impacts on lungs and heart."

We have an absolute right under our state police power to ban this practice before it ever starts," Young said. "The time is now to do this. Let's don't wait until, as Sen. Simmons said, companies do start fracking and then you've got existing uses and you've got permits in place. We don't want that. We want to stop it now before it can start."

The bill has 12 co-sponsors, with five Republicans and seven Democrats.

Supporters of the ban talked of Florida's unique topography and expressed concerns about potential impacts of chemicals involved in fracking on the below-ground aquifer that supplies drinking water.

But the bill faces opposition from the influential business groups, including Associated Industries of Florida and the Florida Petroleum Council.

More: [Viewpoint: Any form of fracking is unsafe](#)

Eric Hamilton, associate director of the Florida Petroleum Council, expressed concern that the proposal could prohibit future exploration using a method that "can be done safely" and in recent years has helped increase domestic energy production while lowering costs of auto and home fuel.

"By banning fracking, you're sending a message to the rest of the country that fracking is not good," Hamilton said.

A similar proposal reached the Senate floor last year but never got a committee hearing in the House.