

RESOLUTION

RE: EXPRESSION OF OPPOSITION TO FEDERAL LEGISLATION BANNING OR RESTRICTING HYDRAULIC FRACTURING OF OIL AND GAS WELLS

WHEREAS, the United States Congress passed the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) to assure the protection of the nation's drinking water sources, and

WHEREAS, since the enactment of the SDWA, the United States Environmental Protection Agency has never interpreted hydraulic fracturing as constituting "underground injection" within the SDWA, and

WHEREAS, in 2004, the EPA published a final report stating that minimal threat was posed to underground sources of drinking water by hydraulic fracturing, and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress, in the Energy Policy Act of 2005, explicitly exempted hydraulic fracturing from the provisions of the SDWA, and

WHEREAS, hydraulic fracturing has been used more than one million times in the last 60 years in exploration and production activities by the oil and gas industry across the nation with no harm to groundwater supplies, and

WHEREAS, the regulation of oil and gas exploration and production activities, including hydraulic fracturing, is strictly regulated by the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission, and

WHEREAS, the SDWA was never intended to grant to the federal government authority to regulate oil and gas drilling and production operations, such as hydraulic fracturing, and

WHEREAS, the issue of hydraulic fracturing is critical to Weld County, home to the 8th largest gas field in the Nation, the Wattenberg Field, and

WHEREAS, due to the nature of the geology in the Wattenberg Field, the ability to utilize hydraulic fracturing is extremely important, and hydraulic fracturing allows wells in this area to be fractured several times before losing their productivity, resulting in fewer wells that have to be drilled and a reduction of our environmental footprint, and

WHEREAS, twenty five percent of Colorado's gas wells are in Weld County. The natural gas industry in Weld County directly employs 7,000 people, invests hundreds of millions of dollars into the area each year, and contributes more than \$3.1 billion to the Colorado economy annually. Additionally Weld County is the second most-active county in Colorado for companies seeking new drilling permits, and

WHEREAS, onerous new regulations regarding hydraulic fracturing could stymie energy development in Weld County, cause detriment to Weld County residents, increase costs to Colorado consumers and decrease the economic vitality of the State.

2009-1290
CR0025

CC: CTR (BLED)

06/12/09

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NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Weld County urges our federal legislators to maintain the exemption for hydraulic fracturing from the provisions of the SDWA and to not pass unneeded legislation that would negatively impact Weld County's economy.

The above and foregoing Resolution was, on motion duly made and seconded, adopted by the following vote on the 3rd day of June, A.D., 2009.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
WELD COUNTY, COLORADO

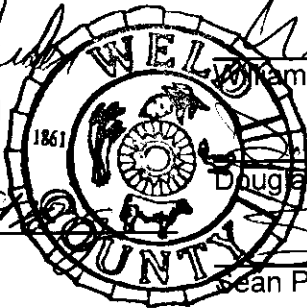
ATTEST: Donald McVay
Weld County Clerk to the Board

William F. Garcia
Chair

Douglas Rademacher
Douglas Rademacher, Pro-Tem

BY: Elizabeth St...
Deputy Clerk to the Board

Sean P. Conway
Sean P. Conway



APPROVED AS TO FORM:
Cyndy Maigne
ASA County Attorney

EXCUSED
Barbara Kirkmeyer
David E. Long
David E. Long

Date of signature: 6/9/09