

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

October 8, 2010

Mr. Edward Hanlon  
Designated Federal Officer  
EPA Science Advisory Board  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Mr. Hanlon:

In March, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced it will conduct a major scientific study into the natural gas extraction process known as hydraulic fracturing and its potential effects on groundwater quality. As members of the Congressional Natural Gas Caucus, we wholeheartedly support this study and eagerly await its findings.

The top priority of the Congressional Natural Gas Caucus is to ensure that domestic natural gas production proceeds in a safe and environmentally-responsible way. The EPA's study will play an important role in informing our membership and the Congress at-large of the risks, if any, the hydraulic fracturing process poses to groundwater resources. We look forward to working with the EPA to ensure this study achieves a vigorous, thorough and impartial investigation.

To that end, we support the EPA's criteria to be used in evaluating candidates for appointment to the *ad hoc* panel that will provide independent scientific and technical expertise to the study, including the requirement that there be an "absence of appearance of a lack of impartiality." We ask that you only select panel members with a demonstrated commitment to engaging in sound science based on hard facts, not advocacy rooted in bias, and with a record of publications based on peer-reviewed research, not arbitrary opinion.

The EPA's study is of critical importance to the domestic natural gas industry, to the hundreds of communities and thousands of workers it supports, and to the ability of this clean-burning fuel to move our nation further towards a clean and independent energy future. We look forward to working with the EPA as it conducts this study in fulfillment of its mission "to protect human health and to safeguard the natural environment—air, water, and land—upon which life depends."



Dan Boren  
Co-Chair, Natural Gas Caucus


Sincerely,



Tim Murphy  
Co-Chair, Natural Gas Caucus

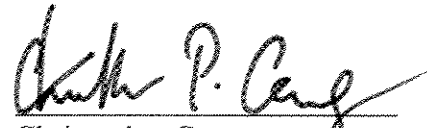
  
Jason Altmire

  
Rob Bishop


  
Marsha Blackburn

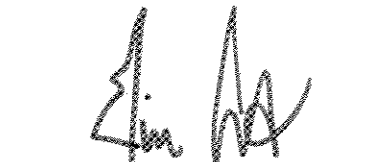
  
Kevin Brady


  
Shelley Moore Capito

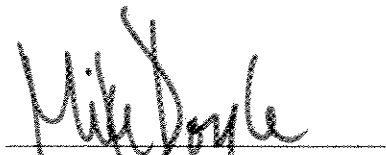
  
Christopher Carney

  
Jason Chaffetz

  
Mike Conaway

  
Jim Costa

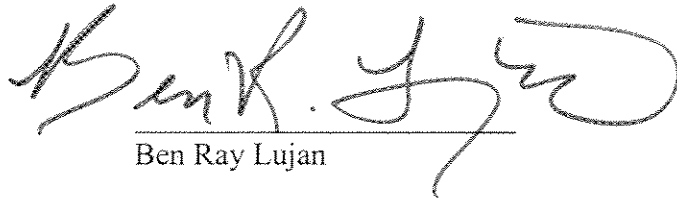
  
Mark Critz

  
Mike Doyle

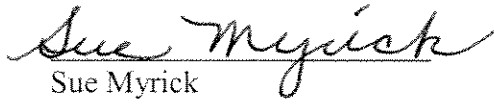
  
Mary Fallin

  
Charles Gonzalez

  
Doug Lamborn

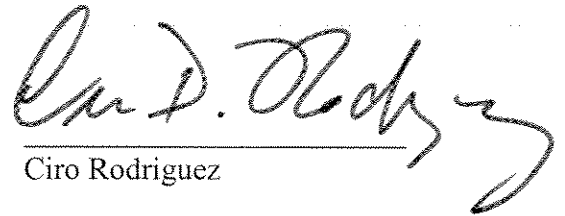
  
Ben Ray Lujan

  
Jim Matheson

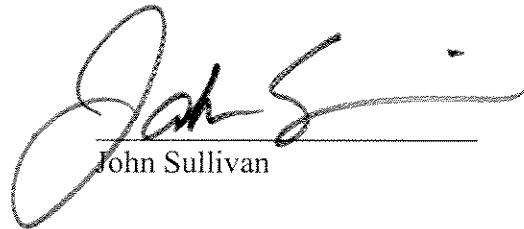
  
Sue Myrick

  
Joe Pitts

  
Denny Rehberg

  
Ciro Rodriguez

  
Mike Ross

  
John Sullivan