



EID Statement on Re-Introduction of the FRAC Act

WASHINGTON – Unable to pass the bill in the previous two congresses, or secure even a single committee hearing during that time, proponents of the so-called FRAC Act re-introduced legislation today that seeks to fundamentally re-write a 37-year-old federal statute – with an eye on assigning the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) direct authority over the regulation of hydraulic fracturing for the first time in the history of the Act, the history of the technology, or the history of the agency itself.

Lee Fuller, executive director of [Energy In Depth](#), issued the following statement this evening in response:

“The fundamental problem with the bill is that it’s based on fundamentally incorrect information. Its backers say it’s meant to ‘restore’ EPA regulation over hydraulic fracturing under the Safe Drinking Water Act, even though SDWA has never in its 37 years been used for that purpose. Its backers say it’s about forcing companies to disclose the composition of the 0.5 percent of the solution that’s not water and sand, even though just about every state regulatory agency in the country will attest that such information is already available. And its backers say that EPA itself won’t be directly involved in the permitting process, even though states such as Pennsylvania, New York and Michigan don’t even enjoy primacy under SDWA.

“Hydraulic fracturing is one of the most critical processes that occurs at the wellsite; it’s also among the most stringently regulated. With this technology, it’s possible that literally quadrillions of cubic feet of clean-burning natural gas can be rendered available for American consumers in the future, resources that would otherwise be too deep and diffuse to access. It’s a technology that’s been around a long time, stretching all the way back to the Truman administration. But it’s also a technology that’s never been more important to our nation’s economic and environmental future than it is today. Unfortunately, somewhere along the way, it became a victim of its own success. If hydraulic fracturing weren’t as patently effective as it is, it’s tough to imagine it’d be as strangely controversial as it has become.”