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Hydraulic Fracturing Could Create 47,000 New Illinois Jobs: Study

Today, the Illinois Chamber Foundation released a groundbreaking [new study](#) that found the responsible development of natural gas from shale in Illinois could create more than 47,000 jobs and grow the Illinois economy by nearly \$10 billion.

The study was conducted by Professor David Loomis, director of the [Center for Renewable Energy](#) at Illinois State University, and examined three different scenarios of investment and production: Low (a low level of exploratory drilling), Medium (two years of more robust exploration followed by three years of production) and High (high level of exploration over a five year period with a mix of exploration and production).

In each of these scenarios, Illinois would experience significant job growth. The medium scenario, for example, suggests shale development would create more than 10,000 new jobs. High exploration and production would yield more than 47,000 new Illinois jobs.

The study's estimates are validated when compared to the reported employment boost other states have experienced from shale development – Arkansas (9,683), Pennsylvania (44,098), Texas Eagle Ford (47,097), and Louisiana (57,637).

In terms of overall economic impact, Illinois would also see strong returns. The medium scenario would result in more than \$2 billion in total economic activity in the state, a number that would grow to \$9.5 billion if development was allowed to grow to its full potential.

Of note: The study's economic estimates are conservative, and only include impacts from potential drilling investment in the state. They do not include, for example, the income to be generated from land leases or royalty payments that would be made to land owners.

The study makes clear that shale development, including the use of hydraulic fracturing, has "the potential to be a significant creator of jobs for the State of Illinois."

Dr. Loomis noted that shale represents an important opportunity for Illinois. "Accessing natural gas in Illinois could produce many direct and indirect benefits and thousands of jobs," Dr. Loomis said. "Illinois is in a great position to participate in this dynamic energy renaissance."

The full study can be accessed by visiting the Illinois Chamber of Commerce [website](#).

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