Mr. Edward Hanlon
Science Advisory Board Staff Office
US Environmental Protection Agency
(Mailcode 1400R)
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20460-4164

Dear Mr. Hanlon:

I request that you include me as a stakeholder in the study of the "Potential Impacts of Hydraulic Fracturing on Drinking Water Resources." I am a stakeholder because of my (or a family member's) association with Texas and/or the industry in one or more of the following ways:

* As a landowner with oil and natural gas mineral rights in Texas
* As an employee of an oil or natural gas exploration or production firm
* As a shareholder with a financial interest in an oil or natural gas exploration or production company; and/or
* As an owner of real estate in Texas

Future rules and regulations recommended by the advisory committee, if accepted by the EPA, could negatively impact the oil and natural gas industry in Texas. Regulatory action that fails to consider the economic effects of stopping or reducing hydraulic fracturing would jeopardize employment in that industry, reduce the value of my investments, and/or raise my property taxesâ€"since Texas (and many other states) currently receives significant severance taxes from oil and natural gas production.

As a stakeholder, I request that you consider these issues, and keep me updated on all future meetings and releases of any and all further reports or regulations of any kind considered and/or drafted by the advisory committee.

Signed,

James Cole
244 Woodbine Drive
Burleson,TX 76028

P.S. I am surrounded by natural gas wells. Not only do I enjoy the extra income from these wells, but the federal government enjoys the taxes I pay on my gas royalties. Also, my water supply company, Bethesda Water Supply Corp, has been delivering drinking water to my home that actually tastes better and seems less infused with damaging hard minerals. Please stop meddling in a good thing. Thank you.

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Dear Mr. Hanlon:

As a stakeholder in the study on the "Potential Impacts of Hydraulic Fracturing on Drinking Water Resources," I ask you to consider the negative economic effect on Texasâ€”and employment in our region and across the United Statesâ€”that would result from stopping or significantly limiting the use of hydraulic fracturing in the 'unconventional' production of oil and natural gas.

I agree with the House Resolution (H. Res. 72) offered by Congressman Pete Sessions, and passed by the House on February 11, 2011, directing House committees to review existing and proposed federal regulations and orders with particular attention to any negative impact on the economy and job growth. I believe the committee and EPA should do the same in its "Draft Plan to Study the Potential Impacts of Hydraulic Fracturing on Drinking Water Resources."

My request is particularly relevant given conflicting language in the Draft Plan itself. For example, according to Section 11, "Economic Impacts" are outside the study's scope. However, under Section 9, entitled "Environmental Justice," this purported scope limitation is exceeded. In Section 9 the committee proposes considering whether individual "drilling arrangements" are possibly unfavorable to persons of "lower socioeconomic status" - but fails to call for the investigation of arrangements with favorable effects for job creators, businesses, landowners and communities.

Thus, it appears the committee proposes studying only instancesâ€”in its opinionâ€”where it believes someone possibly may be harmed, while ignoring instances where others may be benefitted by drilling arrangements. I object to this one-sided economic focus. A balanced review of any industry requires consideration of both social liabilities and social benefits.

The remedy to this deficiency in the current Draft Plan is to include in its scope all economic impacts on the oil and natural gas industry by its use of hydraulic fracturing in the 'unconventional' production of oil and natural gas.

As a stakeholder, I request that you consider these issues, and keep me updated on all future meetings and releases of any and all further reports and regulations of any kind considered and/or drafted by the advisory committee.

Signed,

James Cole
244 Woodbine Drive
Burleson,TX 76028

P.S. Once again, a bunch of federal bureaucrats want to conduct an "academic" exercise without regard to the "unintended consequences" that previous administration energy and environmental policies and regulations has had on our now disastrous domestic energy situation. How can any hearing without due consideration from experts in the field of natural gas, or from respected practical economists and businessman be considered fair and thorough? Enough with this unending hostility toward domestic energy production and good business and capitalism in general. Please stop and leave my wallet alone. This

administration has done enough damage. Thank you, and please go away.

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Dear Mr. Hanlon:

As a stakeholder in the study on the "Potential Impacts of Hydraulic Fracturing on Drinking Water Resources," I ask you to consider the constitutional issues that may result from any rule or regulation that would effectively end - or significantly reduce - the use of hydraulic fracturing to produce oil or natural gas.

In the "Environmental Justice" Section of the "Draft Plan to Study the Potential Impacts of Hydraulic Fracturing on Drinking Water Resources," the committee makes the following comment on Page 49: "Stakeholders have raised concerns about the environmental justice implications of gas drilling operations, noting that people with a lower socioeconomic status may be more likely to consent to drilling arrangements because they may not have the resources to engage with policymakers and agencies to affect alternatives. Additionally, drilling agreements are between landowners and well operators, implying that tenants and neighbors may have little or no input in the decision-making process." The committee proposes "to address these concerns (Page 50)."

Given the abundant judicial review of well-established mineral rights law in the State of Texas, I object to this proposal, and to any consideration by the committee or EPA regarding any purported lack of "input" by any tenants or neighbors regarding someone's mineral rights. So long as the rights of tenants and neighbors are respected and not infringed upon in accordance with Texas state law, there is no basis for the EPA to address any purported lack of tenant and neighbor input.

Finally, as a stakeholder, I request that you consider these issues, and keep me updated on all future meetings and releases of any and all further reports or regulations considered and/or drafted by the advisory committee.

Signed,

James Cole
244 Woodbine Drive
Burleson,TX 76028

P.S. From day one, we mineral rights holders have the opportunity to be involved and engaged in the decision making process regarding natural gas wells. People who are apathetic and don't get involved have voluntarily relinquished their stake in "environmental justice." People at the lower end of the socio-economic scale such as myself are very grateful for the added income from gas royalties. Any action on your part that diminishes my current or future income from gas production is an all out attack on "social justice." History has proven that socialists are the first to destroy true social benefits derived from honest and legal enterprises. Thank you.