

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:

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 Texas and employment in our region and across the United States 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 instances "in its opinion" 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,

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