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GARFIELD BECOMES NINTH COUNTY TO OPPOSE FEDERAL FRACING LEGISLATION *Numerous other municipalities and organizations believe state regulations are adequate*

(GLENWOOD SPRINGS) – Garfield County today became the ninth Colorado county to formally oppose legislation that would give federal bureaucrats authority over the longstanding drilling technique known as hydraulic fracturing, or “fracing”. Garfield joins Delta, Mesa, Moffat, Morgan, Rio Blanco, Washington, Weld, and Yuma counties among the growing number of Colorado municipalities and organizations to pass language formally opposing HR 2766, Representative Diana DeGette’s so-called “FRAC Act.”

Garfield County has produced more clean-burning natural gas over the last three years than any other county in the state, as fracing has opened the tight sands formations of the Piceance Basin to responsible energy development. So far in 2009, Garfield has produced 307 billion cubic feet of clean natural gas. Garfield County received more than \$4 million last year in severance taxes to pay for local services, and millions more in local property taxes on gas production.

Well stimulation through the use of hydraulic fracturing has been used by oil and gas producers for more than 60 years without a single documented instance of groundwater contamination. The process consists of pumping water and sand mixed with trace amounts of additives into a sealed and cemented pipe, thousands of feet below the water table. The water breaks apart the shale rock or tight sands, allowing gas to flow freely to the surface, as natural barriers in the Earth’s geology prevent permeation toward the surface. More than 95% of natural gas wells in Colorado require hydrofracturing to be productive. All told, the gas industry brings more than 70,000 jobs and \$23 billion to the Centennial State.

Representative DeGette’s legislation would bring the practice of fracturing under the auspices of the federal EPA, the same agency that has published reports under both Democratic and Republican leadership endorsing the safety of fracing. Industry officials are concerned that exposing the process to federal regulation would bring about lengthy permitting delays that would cripple domestic energy production. According to a study conducted by IHS Global Insight, the bill could add fees of up to \$100,000 per well.

Fracing is currently heavily regulated at the state level, as Colorado’s rules governing the procedure are among the most stringent in the nation. Energy producers are required to maintain an inventory of any chemical exceeding 500 lbs in quantity that is for “down hole” use. Information on these chemicals must be provided in case of emergency—including the proprietary formula.

In total, 36 counties in Colorado produce natural gas, and the nine counties that oppose the federal legislation collectively represent nearly 44 percent of the state’s production. The two counties which have formally supported the FRAC Act, Pitkin and San Miguel, represent less than 1 percent of the state’s production. Representative DeGette’s district contains no gas activity.

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In addition to the nine counties, 17 communities and organizations have passed resolutions or sent letters to the Colorado congressional delegation opposing the Frac Act.

Counties that formally oppose the Frac Act:

- Delta
- Garfield
- Mesa
- Moffat
- Morgan
- Rio Blanco
- Washington
- Weld
- Yuma

Communities that formally oppose the Frac Act:

- City of Delta
- City of Grand Junction
- City of Greeley
- City of Wray
- Town of Fort Lupton
- Town of LaSalle
- Town of Meeker
- Town of Naturita
- Town of Nucla
- Town of Platteville
- Town of Rangely

Organizations that formally oppose the Frac Act:

- Club 20
- Grand Junction Chamber of Commerce
- Nucla/Naturita Chamber of Commerce
- Fruita Chamber of Commerce
- Meeker Chamber of Commerce
- Rangely Chamber of Commerce

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