

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 22, 2016

The Honorable Ken Calvert
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations,
Subcommittee on Interior and Environment
and Related Agencies
B-308 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Betty McCollum
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations,
Subcommittee on Interior and Environment
and Related Agencies
1016 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Calvert and Ranking Member McCollum:

As your subcommittee prepares the Fiscal Year 2017 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we request that you include legislative language defunding the implementation, or enforcement, of the rule finalized by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to regulate the use of hydraulic fracturing on federal and tribal lands.

On March 20, 2015, the Department of Interior released a final rule regulating hydraulic fracturing on federal and tribal lands. In the year since the release of the proposal, it is clear that the rule interjected federal regulations into regulatory space already occupied competently by the states. Indeed, the states most impacted due to high federal land ownership have led the nation in updating their drilling and wellhead standards to accommodate for increased deployment of horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing, which revolutionized American energy production.

The federal government is a latecomer to hydraulic fracturing regulations, and the proposed rule adds duplication, costs, and bureaucratic uncertainty for energy production on federal lands, which continues to lag behind production on state and private land. The federal hydraulic fracturing standards are unnecessary, unfair, and beyond the authority of the Bureau of Land Management. The U.S. District Court for the District of Wyoming issued a preliminary injunction while considering a challenge to the rule, but it is paramount to cease funding for any hydraulic fracturing rule that exceeds the BLM's statutory jurisdiction and unlawfully interferes with state regulations. We respectfully request you include legislative language to do so.

Suggested Language:

None of the funds made available by this or any other Act may be used to implement, administer, or enforce the final rule entitled 'Hydraulic Fracturing on Federal and Indian Lands' as published in the Federal Register on March 26, 2015 and March 30, 2015 (80 Fed. Reg. 16127 and 16577, respectively).

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please contact me or Will Carraco of my staff with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,


Cynthia M. Lummis
Member of Congress


Steve Pearce
Member of Congress



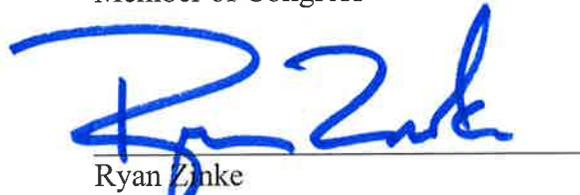
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