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20 February 2017

To: Assemblyman Justin Watkins
Subject: AB159

Testimony in opposition to AB159

Hydraulic Fracturing has been proven to be safe, and all reports indicating otherwise are fictitious. Stimulating wells with Hydraulic Fracturing in the state of Nevada will enable the development of hydrocarbon resources that would benefit Nevada and its citizens financially.

There have been numerous claims made that Hydraulic Fracturing is unsafe. I find it absurd that there is no accountability for special interest groups or individuals to make false claims to support their special interests.

Accredited and well respected associations have provided numerous well referenced sources of information in an attempt to educate the public on Hydraulic Fracturing. One such group, the Association of American State Geologists (AASG) has stated.

“After decades of hydraulic fracturing-related activity there is little evidence if any that hydraulic fracturing itself has contaminated fresh groundwater. No occurrences are known where hydraulic fracturing fluids have moved upward from the zone of fracturing of a horizontal well into the fresh drinking water.”

The AASG goes on to say that there is negligible, if any, increased seismic activity associated with the actual process of Hydraulic Fracturing. Injection wells have been found to increase seismicity but typically of a very small magnitude (less than 3.0 on the Richter Scale).

The web site for the AASG is:

http://stategeologists.blogspot.com/2012_07_01_archive.html

In addition the American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG) published a White Paper on the facts of how Hydraulic Fracturing works.

http://wiki.aapg.org/White_paper:_Hydraulic_fracturing

On top of the all of this, the Nevada Division of Minerals has a comprehensive permit process that allows Hydraulic Fracturing to proceed without endangering the public or environment. It includes monitoring of water wells and establishing baseline data before any Hydraulic Fracturing occurs.

A bill to ban Hydraulic Fracturing in the state of Nevada has no merit on the basis of protecting the public and or the environment and would result in serious reduction to revenue associated

with oil and gas drilling and leasing. Although AB159 indicates that there will be no fiscal impact to counties or the State of Nevada, if passed, it would send a signal to the oil industry that Nevada is not friendly to the oil industry. And as a result, revenue received by counties from the proceeds of BLM lease sales would disappear, as would other revenue from associated activities related to oil and gas exploration and development.

Regards;

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'WJ Ehni', is positioned below the 'Regards;' text.

Wm. J. Ehni
Geologist

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