

## **Wyoming wants control in regulating hydraulic fracturing**

March 18 -- Wyoming wants the federal government to leave the regulation of hydraulic fracturing, a technique used in oil and gas well drilling, to state regulators who have expertise in the field.

The state legislature passed a joint resolution, which Wyoming Gov. Dave Freudenthal signed, requesting Congress not pass legislation that would diminish the state's ability to regulate oil and gas well completion. Federal regulations would raise the cost of producing energy and not benefit the environment.

The state has extensive oil and gas production regulations in place and state regulators have the expertise to implement and enforce them.

"Washington regulators should not be imposing new administrative costs and mandates that would not add to environmental protection," said state Sen. Bill Vasey, who co-sponsored the bill.

Nearly one million wells have been produced using hydraulic fracturing and the technique has proven to be safe, Vasey said.

"Wyoming regulatory experts are in a better position to protect the public health and safety of our citizens than what some in Congress would propose," he said. "I question the motives of the East Coast environmental groups that are trying to shut down oil and gas development in Wyoming and elsewhere in the West."

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