

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE OF UTAH

REPRESENTATIVE
ROGER E. BARRUS

DISTRICT 18
DAVIS COUNTY



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September 10, 2012

Mike Pool
Acting Director
Bureau of Land Management
1849 C Street, NW
Room 5665
Washington, DC 20240

RE: Comments on Proposed Hydraulic Fracturing Rule

Dear Acting Director Pool:

I am writing in opposition to the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) proposed rule that would require public disclosure of chemicals used during hydraulic fracturing after fracturing operations have been completed on federal and Indian lands. The proposed rule would invoke additional and unnecessary regulations on America's oil and gas industry.

Federal and State governments already administer many of the same regulations that the BLM is proposing to administer. In my state, all reporting requirements, including information about the chemicals injected in well stimulation fluids, are publicly available, as long as the information is not proprietary.

These additional proposed regulations will only produce unnecessary cost to both industry and the BLM. These additional proposed regulations will also take time and resources to produce dual paperwork which could otherwise be used for business development and therefore job growth.

An independent economic study by John Dunham Associates that was commissioned by the Western Energy Alliance found that there would be no net benefit but rather a net cost to society of over \$665.3 million. Once additional factors are included, including a reasonable estimate of the delay costs, it is likely that the proposed rules would generate an even greater net cost to society of \$687.5 million.

At a time that when the federal government should be exploring ways to spur and encourage innovation for oil and natural gas exploration on federal lands, the proposed rule simply adds another layer of regulation on a system that is already overwhelmed. These additional regulations will reduce investment in my state and thereby reduce potential economic growth. Let's not take unnecessary action that will result in further delays and increase the strain on BLM staff. I urge the BLM to withdraw this proposed rule.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roger E. Barrus". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Roger E. Barrus

Chair, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee