Dear ,

This letter is being sent to you from a concerned Illinois resident and property owner in regards to the high volume hydraulic fracturing (HVHF) debate. It is exciting for our area and the entire state of Illinois to have further potential oil and gas development along with the new jobs, oil and gas royalty revenue and new revenue for the state of Illinois that would come with it.

After nearly a year and a half of delay, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) finally took the next important step in the process of establishing a regulatory framework under which drilling and completion permits for oil and gas wells can be considered by issuing their revised draft regulations to the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR). However, industry and business experts that have reviewed IDNR’s draft rules agree that the proposed package goes far beyond what the legislature passed and intended. In fact, more than 60 provisions have been identified in the draft regulations that go beyond the will of the Legislature and would directly impede the ability of operators to get permits to drill wells under the law.

This democratically-passed legislation was the product of an unprecedented compromise by stakeholders and passed overwhelmingly in the Illinois legislature. The legislation was meant to establish some of the strongest and most detailed rules in the country. The statute as written, allows full-scale shale development, protects the rights of property owners and protects the environment. Instead, the IDNR – influenced by a wave of comments from activist groups who lost the debate and tried, in their own words, to “bury” the state with paperwork – drafted rules that set an impossible bar. There are now serious doubts that a company could ever get a HVHF drilling permit under the rules currently drafted.

Please consider these issues:

* **The rules, as drafted by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, are unworkable and violate the intent of what the Illinois legislature passed by a 160-12 margin.**
* **The democratically-passed law creating the rules was designed to set a high bar for environmental protection. The draft rules from IDNR set an impossible bar.**
* **The law establishing the rules was passed by an overwhelming bipartisan majority of the Illinois legislature, with input from industry, environmental groups, labor, and agricultural leaders. The current rules do not reflect the intent of that historic compromise and run counter to the negotiations.**
* **These rules, which make obtaining a permit in Illinois virtually impossible, mean that my rights as a property owner in Illinois are being compromised.**

We respect your position as a member of JCAR and the responsibility that goes along with it to uphold the regulatory process of Illinois. Thank you for listening to these concerns.

Sincerely,

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