



November 19, 2013

The Honorable Congressman Bill Flores  
1030 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Re: H.R. 2728, the "Protecting States' Rights to Promote American Energy Security Act"

Dear Congressman Flores;

The Ground Water Protection Council is a national association of state groundwater and underground injection control agencies, whose mission is to promote the protection and conservation of groundwater resources for all beneficial use, recognizing groundwater as a critical component of the ecosystem.

Earlier this year, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) proposed new rules for governing hydraulic fracturing on federal and tribal lands. In a number of instances the BLM has recognized the experience and competence of state regulators by partnering with them to help manage oil and gas development activities on federal lands. We believe this relationship can be enhanced by allowing hydraulic fracturing to be regulated in accordance with individual state rules.

States have decades of experience in oil and gas regulation and a record of successful environmental and public health protection. Further, state regulatory programs have been carefully designed by experts to address state concerns and local geology. State regulations are routinely reviewed as technology changes and are constantly improved. State field staff often work in the communities where they live and are dedicated to protecting their local environment and the health of their families and neighbors. They have the capability to respond to issues as they arise.

When it comes to regulating the oil and gas industry, states have the obligation to protect the "waters of the state", the statutory authority, appropriate rules, dedicated staff, and resources to manage the exploration and production process. We believe this process works and should continue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michel J. Paque", written over a horizontal line.

Michel J. Paque  
Executive Director