

Aric Newhouse

*Senior Vice President
Policy and Government Relations*

November 20, 2013

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives:

The National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), the largest manufacturing association in the United States representing manufacturers in every industrial sector and in all 50 states, urges you to support H.R. 2728, the Protecting States' Rights to Promote American Energy Security Act.

States have long been the primary regulators of hydraulic fracturing and have done so safely for decades. The NAM believes the responsibility to regulate hydraulic fracturing should remain with states. Duplicative federal regulation would harm any potential gains from increased exploration, development, and production of shale oil and gas.

H.R. 2728 would prohibit the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) from imposing burdensome new regulations on hydraulic fracturing in any state that already has a regulatory structure in place for such activities. The bill would require the BLM to "defer to State regulations, permitting and guidance, for all activities related to hydraulic fracturing." The legislation does not prohibit federal regulations from establishing "base line standards" in states where there are no established regulations on oil and gas activities.

The NAM supports H.R. 2728 because it will allow states to regulate hydraulic fracturing based on local geology and conditions. We continue to believe that this bill will avoid long delays in the federal permitting process and substantial costs associated with another layer of federal regulations. Natural gas is critical to manufacturers and plays an important role in the revitalization of our manufacturing sectors.

The NAM's Key Vote Advisory Committee has indicated that votes on H.R. 2728, including procedural motions, may be considered for designation as Key Manufacturing Votes in the 113th Congress.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Aric Newhouse

Key Manufacturing Vote