

News Release



Date: November 16, 2009
Contact: Jon Haubert
(303) 623-0987
jhaubert@ipams.org

IPAMS
410 17th Street, Ste. 700
Denver, CO 80202

IPAMS Letter to DeGette Sets Record Straight on Hydraulic Fracturing

(DENVER)- The Independent Petroleum Association of Mountain States (IPAMS) sent a letter to Congresswoman Diana DeGette (D-Denver) last week asking her to stop the spread of misinformation to advance the "Fracturing Responsibility and Awareness of Chemicals (FRAC) Act" (H.R. 2766). The IPAMS letter was penned in response to Rep. DeGette's letter to her colleagues on November 4 urging sponsorship of the FRAC Act based on a *New York Times* editorial that was heavy on advocacy, but light on facts.

Hydraulic fracturing (fracking) is a safe, well-tested technology that has been used to develop energy for over 60 years. It is performed thousands of times each year with an exemplary safety record. There are no documented cases of contamination to drinking water from fracking. Like all procedures surrounding the development of energy, hydraulic fracturing is already regulated by state and federal laws. In spite of the alarmist claims by some in Congress and their allies in the environmental community, there is absolutely no evidence that additional regulations are needed.

Rep. DeGette's letter echoes some statements directly from the *Times* editorial as justification for other Members of Congress to join her in sponsoring the FRAC Act. One of the statements is "Hydraulic fracturing has been implicated in a growing number of water pollution cases across the country. . . . The safety of the nation's water supply should not have to rely on luck or the public relations talents of the oil and gas industry."

IPAMS letter to DeGette seeks to set the record straight on this and other misleading and inaccurate information contained in the *Times* editorial: "The sixty year safety record of fracking has nothing to do with our public relations, but rather with industry's engineering talents. That record continues to this day. The incidents being blamed on fracking by environmental groups have not been attributed to fracking."

IPAMS continues to be confused as to why the Representative for Denver continues to advance legislation that would hinder her constituents from developing the natural gas necessary to increase energy security, back up renewable energy sources, and make a meaningful reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. Because Representative DeGette's Denver District is a regional hub, the natural gas and oil industry contributes \$11.3 billion in economic activity and provides 54,000 jobs in the Denver metro area alone, according to the Colorado School of Mines.

IPAMS estimates that over 95% of the wells drilled in the Intermountain West are fracked, which is why another layer of regulation on top of state regulation would severely impact the ability of independent producers in the region to continue to provide 27% of the nation's natural gas.

[Click here for the full letter to Congresswoman DeGette.](#)

###

About IPAMS

The Independent Petroleum Association of Mountain States (IPAMS), founded in 1974, is a non-profit trade association representing more than 400 independent natural gas and oil producers, service and supply companies, banking and financial institutions and industry consultants committed to environmentally responsible oil and natural gas development in the Intermountain West. More information on IPAMS and its members is available at www.ipams.org.