



City of Glenwood Springs Office of the Mayor

May 22, 2009

The Honorable Mark Udall
United States Senate
317 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-0605

The Honorable Michael Bennet
United States Senate
702 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-0606

The Honorable John Salazar
United States House of Representatives
326 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-0603

Dear Senators Udall and Bennet and Congressman Salazar:

The Glenwood Springs City Council unanimously supports the uniform application of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) as a fundamental protection to public health and safety, and encourages our Congressional delegation to remove the current exemption of the oil and gas industry's hydraulic fracturing processes from regulation under the SDWA.

As you know, the oil and gas production process widely used in our area involves the underground injection of large quantities of industrial fluids and chemicals. Although the industry assures the public that these chemicals are harmless and will remain isolated from drinking water aquifers and municipal watersheds, there have been several incidents of apparent underground contamination as well as above-ground fluid spills that have affected the health of workers and nearby residents and raised concerns about the safety of our region's public water supplies. Our concerns are compounded by the fact that federal regulations exempt industry operators from having to disclose the chemical composition of their fracturing fluids.

We strongly believe that the oil and gas industry's hydraulic fracturing processes should be regulated under the SDWA, and request that you begin working to enact legislation that removes the industry's exemption from this important public health safeguard.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
City of Glenwood Springs, Colorado

Bruce Christensen, Mayor
On behalf of the Glenwood Springs City Council

RA/
xc: Tom Vilsack, US Secretary of Agriculture
Ken Salazar, US Secretary of Interior
Congresswoman Diana DeGette