

STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
COUNTY OF LEA  
RESOLUTION NO. 19-FEB-060R

**A RESOLUTION OPPOSING SENATE BILL 459 PROHIBITING THE ISSUANCE OF NEW HYDRAULIC FRACTURING PERMITS AND CREATING REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

**WHEREAS**, hydraulic fracturing, is a proven technology that has been used in New Mexico for the past 50 years and more than 50,000 times to safely increase production of oil and natural gas; *and*

**WHEREAS**, using a mixture that is 99.5% sand and water, this technology creates tiny fissures in mineral-rich rock, allowing the extraction of oil and natural gas trapped inside; *and*

**WHEREAS**, the process of hydraulic fracturing only occurs for a brief period of time during the drilling operations; *and*

**WHEREAS**, wells that have been fractured can actively produce for decades; *and*

**WHEREAS**, hydraulic fracturing occurs thousands of feet below the ground and freshwater supplies, with layers of steel casing and cement protecting the ground and water around the well and multiple layers of impermeable clays and salts separating any potable aquifers from the fractured zones thousands of feet and in many cases, even miles below; *and*

**WHEREAS**, hydraulic fracturing, along with horizontal drilling, greatly reduces the surface footprint and disturbances of oil and gas operations, allowing drilling in multiple directions from one point, rather than one direction from multiple points; *and*

**WHEREAS**, over the past five decades, there has been NO instance of aquifer contamination reported in New Mexico by this process since its inception; *and*

**WHEREAS**, one third of New Mexico's general operating fund and over 90% of New Mexico's severance tax funding for capital projects comes from revenues derived from minerals produced as a result of hydraulically fractured wells; *and*

**WHEREAS**, over 100,000 New Mexico jobs are produced by the strong oil and gas industry expansion made possible through hydraulic fracturing; *and*

**WHEREAS**, Senate Bill 459 as introduced in the State of New Mexico's 54<sup>th</sup> legislature, first session of 2019 by State Senators Antoinette Sedilla Lopez and Benny Shendo, calls for a four-year ban on hydraulic fracturing; *and*

**WHEREAS**, the net result from four years of banning the practice of hydraulic fracturing would effectively kill a major industry and all of the related investment being made into our State; *and*

**WHEREAS**, this ban would most certainly, for years to come, have catastrophic, lasting effects on the State of New Mexico and its citizens and would damage our nation's drive towards energy independence; and

**WHEREAS**, the County of Lea promotes the economic and general welfare of our citizens, as well as, providing a healthy revenue source for the entire State.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED** by the Board of County Commissioners of Lea County that it declares its opposition to Senate Bill 459 in its entirety and encourages the Legislature to consider fully the benefits the entire State of New Mexico receives from the deployment of this technology and make the correct decision by NOT passing this bill out of committee or out of the Senate.

**PASSED, APPROVED and ADOPTED** on this 28<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2019, by the Lea County Board of County Commissioners in an open meeting in Lovington, New Mexico.

**LEA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Lea County  
FEB 28 2019  
Meeting

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Rebecca Long (District 2), Chair  
Voted:  Yes  No  Abstain

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dean Jackson (District 1), Vice Chair  
Voted:  Yes  No  Abstain

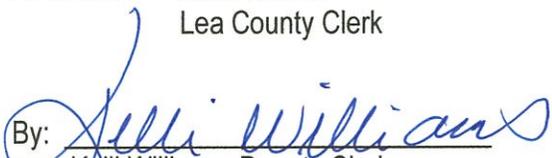
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gary G. Eidson (District 3), Member  
Voted:  Yes  No  Abstain

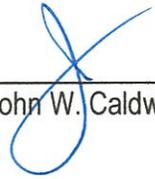
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jonathan Sena (District 4), Member  
Voted:  Yes  No  Abstain

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Richard Don Jones (District 5), Member  
Voted:  Yes  No  Abstain

**ATTEST:** Keith Manes  
Lea County Clerk

**APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:**

By:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kelli Williams, Deputy Clerk

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John W. Caldwell, County Attorney

