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ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
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March 8, 2013

The Honorable Michael A. Sesma
Council Member
City of Gaithersburg
31 S. Summit Avenue
Gaithersburg, MD 20877

Dear Council Member Sesma,

Thank you for appearing before the Subcommittee on Environment and the Economy on February 15, 2013, to testify at the hearing entitled "The Role of the States in Protecting the Environment Under Current Law."

Pursuant to the Rules of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the hearing record remains open for 10 business days to permit Members to submit additional questions for the record, which are attached. The format of your responses to these questions should be as follows: (1) the name of the Member whose question you are addressing, (2) the complete text of the question you are addressing in bold, and then (3) your answer to that question in plain text.

To facilitate the printing of the hearing record, please e-mail your responses, in Word or PDF format, to Nick.Abraham@mail.house.gov by the close of business on Friday, March 22, 2013.

Thank you again for your time and effort preparing and delivering testimony before the Subcommittee.

Sincerely,



John Shimkus
Chairman

Subcommittee on Environment and the Economy

cc: The Honorable Paul Tonko, Ranking Member,
Subcommittee on Environment and the Economy

Attachment

The Honorable John Shimkus

1. Your testimony states that “cities and towns do not always agree with the substance of rules put forth by EPA, particularly the increasing number of unfunded federal mandates imposed on local governments.” I would imagine that members of the League of Cities face a finite amount of resources to address any particular production (i.e. education, health, environmental protection). Could you please site specific trade-offs you have had to make meet these mandates?

The Honorable Janice D. Schakowski

The right-to-know about chemicals used in fracking fluids is not contingent on the geologic formations in which they are used. Several states, with varying geology, have adopted very similar laws requiring disclosure of chemicals used in fracking fluids.

Colorado recently enacted a new rule requiring groundwater testing both before and after drilling and well completion operations. Currently, Colorado is the only state that requires this.

As with disclosure of fracking chemicals, this rule could and should apply in any state, regardless of geology. Residents of every state should be protected by early detection of potential groundwater contamination from oil and gas drilling operations, and local governments should have the information they need to protect their drinking water sources and systems.

1. Would pre- and post-drilling testing of groundwater provide useful information and early warning of contamination for cities like Gaithersburg?
2. Would pre- and post-drilling testing of groundwater provide useful information and early warning of contamination for other local governments represented by the National League of Cities?