



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

M I C H I G A N

EDUCATING AND ADVOCATING FOR RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT

July 16, 2014

Office of Oil, Gas, and Minerals
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 30256
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7756

RE: 2013-101-EQ

The League of Women Voters of Michigan, in partnership with our national organization, strongly supports full disclosure of all chemicals to be used in fracking operations prior to drilling. Our organization's perspective is that government should be regulating to reduce and control pollution before it goes into the ground. There is no government oversight with a plan that requires disclosure 30 days after the well has been completed.

We have supported the water assessment withdrawal tool to maintain species populations and protect lakes, wetlands and in-stream flows. However, this assessment tool was not designed for this level of industrial use which could exceed 20 million gallons per well. Further investigation needs to be completed for this application.

The League believes that public understanding and cooperation are essential. These proposed rules would allow a developer to drill without lease rights or hearings. The rights of property owners should not be taken or limited through potential harm by contamination from fracking fluids.

These proposed rules do not include resource management assessments based on future needs to protect our nonrenewable resources. The League supports comprehensive long-range planning and believes that wise decision-making promotes stewardship.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed rules for hydraulic fracturing operations. The League of Women Voters of Michigan supports preemptive rules for all levels of fracking operations, to maintain Michigan's safety record.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Smith".

Susan Smith, President
League of Women Voters of Michigan