

## Protect Public Health and the Environment: Be an Original Cosponsor on the Frack Pack!

Dear Colleague:

The oil and gas industry has profited from loopholes in regulations allowing for environmental contamination that puts our peoples' health and that of the environment at risk. Just some of the identified risks include:

- A 2020 Rolling Stone [investigation](#) involving hundreds of interviews with workers, scientists, environmentalists and regulators uncovered widespread radiation contamination from brine and other fracking byproducts.
- Oil and gas companies have been disposing of hazardous waste in dumps not designed to contain such waste and transported by unmarked trucks with unprotected and misinformed workers, leading to leakage into the environment.
- Despite claims that fracking does not harm drinking water, the Environmental Protection Agency identified impacts of fracking on drinking water that "ranged in severity, from temporary changes in water quality to contamination that made private drinking water wells unusable."
- The oil and gas industry also emit a variety of hazardous air pollutants that remain largely unregulated including hydrogen sulfide, which is associated with negative health effects, such as nausea, headaches, tremors, and convulsions.

Despite these dangers, loopholes in our most vital environmental and public health laws allow oil and gas companies to play by their own set of rules, avoiding regulations other industries all comply all with. Approximately 30 states contain active oil and gas production enterprises, and approximately 18 million Americans live within a mile of a well that has been drilled since 2000; Consistent national standards are needed to protect air and water resources.

The Frack Pack Acts close loopholes and make oil and gas companies follow **the same rules** as other industries to protect our environment and human health by simply erasing oil and gas exemptions in our bedrock environmental laws. Specifically,

**CLEANER Act** eliminates the exemption for oil and gas companies and geothermal energy in the Resources Conservation and Recovery Act, put in place by an outdated 1980 amendment, which governs disposal of hazardous materials. The Rolling Stone [investigation](#) highlights the need to safely dispose of these potentially poisonous materials no matter who produces them.

**FRESHER Act** closes the loophole for oil and gas companies in the Clean Water Act and creates a study to better understand the effect of storm water runoff from oil and gas operations.

**SHARED Act** protects communities by requiring oil and gas companies to report on the impact their fracking activity has on water quality. Companies would regularly test water sources within a half-mile radius of fracking sites, and those results would be made available in a public database. This bill would not ban fracking but would ensure that oil and gas companies do not hide the water impacts of their activities.

**FRAC Act** authorizes the EPA to regulate hydraulically fractured wells and requires public disclosure of chemical constituents expected to be used in the fracturing process prior to

fracturing; however, propriety chemical formulas are protected but must be provided in medical emergency.

**CLOSE Act** closes the 'aggregation exemption' written into the Clean Air Act for oil and gas activities, which currently allows fossil fuel production, processing, storage, and transmission to emit a range of hazardous air pollutants as isolated small air-pollution point sources without meaningful regulation by EPA. It also adds hydrogen sulfide, a common and dangerous byproduct of oil and gas extraction, back to the Clean Air Act's list of regulated Hazardous Air Pollutants.

To become an original cosponsor of any of the Frack Pack of bills or receive more information, please contact the staff below:

- Stephanie Houser ([Stephanie.houser@mail.house.gov](mailto:Stephanie.houser@mail.house.gov)) in Congressman Cartwright's office (CLEANER and FRESHER Acts),
- Teresa Williams ([Teresa.williams@mail.house.gov](mailto:Teresa.williams@mail.house.gov)) in Congresswoman Schakowsky's office (SHARED Act),
- Nikki Roy ([Nikki.roy@mail.house.gov](mailto:Nikki.roy@mail.house.gov)) in Congresswoman DeGette's office (FRAC Act),
- Scott Matus ([Scott.matus@mail.house.gov](mailto:Scott.matus@mail.house.gov)) in Congresswoman Clarke's office (CLOSE Act),
- Carissa Bunge ([Carissa.bunge@mail.house.gov](mailto:Carissa.bunge@mail.house.gov)) in Congressman Neguse's office.

Sincerely,

Matt Cartwright  
Member of Congress

Jan Schakowsky  
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Diana DeGette  
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