

NEWS RELEASE
GOVERNOR STEVE BULLOCK
STATE OF MONTANA

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Bullock Defends Montana Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority
Calls federal fracking proposal “redundant” & expresses “deep concerns”

HELENA - Governor Steve Bullock is calling federal efforts to impose new rules on federal oil and gas leases a “redundant regulatory process” for Montana.

A set of new federal rules would buck regulatory authority for several aspects of hydraulic fracturing (*fracking*) which is currently responsibly and effectively exercised by the State of Montana.

“Montana has a good record regulating hydraulic fracturing and associated technologies,” wrote Bullock. “I believe the proposed rules impose a redundant regulatory process that, in Montana, will offer little in the way of improvements in the protection of human health and safety or involvement of the public.”

The federal proposal, from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), would impose federal rulemaking authority on fracking efforts taking place on public and tribal lands in Montana.

Bullock’s letter encourages BLM to take advantage of the current 21-year-old Memorandum of Understanding between the State of Montana and BLM, which recognizes the value and importance of state expertise and leadership in these matters. The Montana Board of Oil and Gas Conservation has served as the lead authority on well spacing and setback matters under the agreement.

The letter concludes with a request that any proposed rules allow states like Montana, which sufficiently regulate fracking, to “retain primary authority for regulating the activity on public lands through an MOU with BLM” – in contrast to states that do not regulate fracking.

Oil and gas development in Montana supports thousands of jobs and is the backbone of economic growth in Eastern Montana.

Governor Bullock’s letter is addressed to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, who oversees the Bureau of Land Management. The letter can be found [here](#).