

Senator:

My name is Frank Pagurko, and I write to you on behalf of the Rio Grande Foundation, an economic policy think tank based in Albuquerque. We work to promote the interests of the people of New Mexico through free market policy.

In the interest of all New Mexicans, I strongly urge you to **vote NO** on SB 149, the “Prohibit New Fracking Licenses” bill. If this bill is passed, it will cripple the already-sluggish New Mexico economy. According to an industry report from last year, in 2020 our state’s oil and gas producers provided 134,000 jobs, added \$16.6 billion to the state economy, and funded **39% of the state budget** (<https://www.krwg.org/post/new-report-oil-and-gas-supported-134000-jobs-added-166-billion-new-mexico-economy>). A ban on new fracking licenses would drive oil and gas producers out of the state in short order. New Mexico is not a business-friendly state, so there is no realistic way to replace the essential oil and gas producers. Between the economic damage wreaked by the pandemic and President Biden’s moratorium on federal land licenses, now is **absolutely not the time** to drive more New Mexicans into poverty or out of the state by destroying their jobs.

In addition to the obvious economic problems with SB 149, this bill ignores the most up-to-date science on fracking technology. This method of resource extraction is much safer than has been claimed by oil and gas opponents. A peer-reviewed study from the University of Cincinnati Department of Geology found **no evidence for drinking water contamination** from fracking operations (https://magazine.uc.edu/editors_picks/recent_features/methane.html). Across the *four-year* project, researchers found no change in the concentration of methane or other contaminants in drinking water due to new fracking operations, regardless of the proximity

of tested wells to drilling sites. Across the country, hydraulic fracturing wells also use less fresh water than golf courses, and water recycling efforts have been increasing for years

(<https://energycentral.com/c/ec/energy-facts-how-much-water-does-fracking-shale-gas-consume>).

I encourage you to follow the economic and geologic science on fracking and vote not on SB 149. Thank you very much.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank Pagurko III", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Frank Pagurko III