



**ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN STATE ENGINEERS
2016 POSITION STATEMENT
HYDRAULIC FRACTURING**

Whereas, hydraulic fracturing is a process that injects sand, water, and other fluids, including various chemical compounds, underground to aid in the extraction of oil and natural gas; and

Whereas, hydraulic fracturing has been used for over 60 years in conventional oil and gas production, with over one million wells having been fractured in the United States alone; and

Whereas, states have primary and exclusive authority over the allocation and administration of rights to the use of water used in hydraulic fracturing operations; and

Whereas, states have decades of experience, knowledge, and information regulating hydraulic fracturing and other oil and gas activities; and

Whereas, states are best positioned to regulate hydraulic fracturing because of their understanding of regional and local conditions and their ability to tailor regulations to fit the needs of the local environment; and

Whereas, states currently employ a range of programmatic elements and regulations to ensure that hydraulic fracturing does not impair water resources and environmental values, including requirements pertaining to well permitting, well construction, handling of exploration and production waste fluids, closure of wells, and abandonment of well sites.

Therefore, be it resolved, that federal efforts involving hydraulic fracturing, including efforts to study potential adverse impacts on water quantity and quality, should leverage state knowledge, experience, policies, and regulations.

Be it further resolved, that federal efforts to study the potential impacts of hydraulic fracturing on water resources should be based upon sound science and driven by states.

Be it further resolved, that the Association of Western State Engineers opposes any and all efforts that would diminish the primary and exclusive authority of states over the allocation of water resources used in hydraulic fracturing.

Adopted September 28, 2016.

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