



**RESOLUTION
of the
WESTERN STATES WATER COUNCIL
regarding
HYDRAULIC FRACTURING
Bismarck, North Dakota
July 15, 2016**

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 oil and gas production, with over one million wells having been fractured in the United States alone; and

WHEREAS, although concerns about hydraulic fracturing have been voiced by some, western states have experienced few, if any, adverse impacts involving water quality and water allocation attributable to hydraulic fracturing; 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, hydraulic fracturing is responsible for significantly increasing the nation's ability to recover oil and gas, lessening its dependence on foreign energy supplies and providing billions of dollars in direct and indirect economic benefits each year, including hundreds of thousands of jobs; 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 but not limited to requirements pertaining to well permitting, well construction, the handling of exploration and production waste fluids, the closure of wells, and the abandonment of well sites.

NOW, 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 limited in scope, based upon sound science, and driven by states given the lack of significant widespread impacts associated with hydraulic fracturing in the experience of our member states and increasingly limited federal funds.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Western States Water Council 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.