



Fracking resolution debated in Wyo. committee

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CHEYENNE, Wyo. (AP) - A state legislative committee is considering a resolution asking Congress and President Obama to continue to exempt hydraulic fracturing from the Safe Drinking Water Act.

The House Minerals, Business and Economic Development Committee is expected to act Friday on Senate Joint Resolution 5. With the committee's approval, the resolution would go to the House floor.

Hydraulic fracturing involves pumping water underground to break up rock layers and release pockets of natural gas. Opponents say the process could contaminate water wells with hydrocarbons.

Deb Thomas, an organizer with the Powder River Basin Resource Council, says the public deserves to know what chemicals are used during the process of hydraulic fracturing.

Proponents say the process is critical for the gas industry. Bruce Hinchey with the Petroleum Association of Wyoming says complying with the Safe Drinking Water Act would cost the industry \$100,000 per well.

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