From: Sarah Merrill
To: DNR MT OG Regulatory
Subject: Support Stronger Fracking Chemical Disclosure Regulations
Date: Tuesday, September 20, 2016 6:07:03 PM

Dear Board Members

I support the adoption of the proposed regulatory amendments submitted in the rulemaking petition filed on July 25, 2016, concerning the disclosure of well stimulation fluids and proprietary chemicals and trade secrets, and I encourage the Board to begin a rulemaking process and adopt the proposed changes. The chemicals used in fracking operations are often toxic and carcinogenic, and it is only fair that landowners living near fracking activities have access to this information in order to protect their families and property.

While the Board has adopted rules governing the regulation of fracking chemicals, they fall short of adequately protecting the public's right to know. Specifically, the Board must adopt rules that require operators to disclose the chemical ingredients of their fracking fluids before fracking occurs, and that close the trade secrets loophole by ensuring that only legitimate trade secrets are exempt from disclosure. Our neighboring state of Wyoming already provides these protections for its residents and there is no reason why Montanans should have to settle for less. Further, a more stringent disclosure process is essential to ensure that the regulations comply with the protections afforded all Montanans under the "right to know" provision of the Montana Constitution.

Clean water is a critical resource across Montana, and the implementation of these proposed regulatory changes is an important step forward in protecting our water resources.

Thank you for your consideration.

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