

HOUSE RESOLUTION 98

By Richardson

A RESOLUTION relative to hydrological fracturing as a method of natural gas extraction in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, Tennessee's natural gas industry uses stimulation techniques to produce gas from shale formations; and

WHEREAS, industry geologists have reported the Chattanooga Shale, which underlies much of our State, may contain natural gas that could be economically recovered by horizontal drilling and fracturing using high pressure injection of nitrogen gas, chemicals, and sand into wells, and that deep below the Chattanooga Shale lies another large shale formation, known as the Conasauga Formation, and, if and when the Conasauga Formation is explored, varying amounts of water may be required in fracturing operations; and

WHEREAS, modern methods for recovery of natural gas are being more widely used to extract gas from "tight" shale formations in the United States, and with this method known as hydrological fracturing or "hydrofracking"; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) regulates gas well drilling and operations under regulations adopted by the Oil and Gas Board as part of the Water Pollution Control Division, and such regulations currently do not explicitly refer to hydrofracking; and

WHEREAS, the widespread use of hydrofracking nationwide requires that TDEC be forward thinking in its rules and regulations regarding this natural gas recovery method prior to new technological advancements and the further exploration of new shale formations; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that this Body hereby

encourages representatives of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, the Tennessee Oil and Gas Association (TOGA), and the public, represented by the League of Women Voters and the Tennessee Conservation Voters, to meet with the purpose of proposing regulations to provide necessary oversight for the use of hydrological fracturing as a method of modern natural gas extraction in Tennessee. The goal of these regulations, to be presented to the Oil and Gas Board for consideration, shall be to protect Tennessee's groundwater quality and drinking water supplies, to protect the collative rights of the land and mineral owners, and to allow for development, protection, and management of the resource of natural gas deposits.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an enrolled copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Commissioner of Environment and Conservation, the Tennessee Oil and Gas Association, the League of Women Voters, and the Tennessee Conservation Voters.