



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 5, 2013

Contact: Katie Sulau, 734-222-9650 or katie@michiganlcv.org

Fracking Reports Are Call To Action To Protect Michigan's Clean Water

Technical findings show room for regulatory improvement

ANN ARBOR --- Technical reports on natural gas hydraulic fracturing, or "fracking," released today further confirm the need for Michigan legislators and Governor Snyder to eliminate loopholes and exemptions in current, outdated state laws said the Michigan League of Conservation Voters. The reports, released by the Graham Sustainability Institute at University of Michigan, show that oil and gas companies enjoy exemptions in statute that allow chemical additives used in fracking wells to be kept under wraps, and water use to be regulated differently than other high-volume water extractions.

"Michigan's clean water is the centerpiece of our state's natural resource economy, and our identity as the Great Lakes State," said Jack Schmitt, Political Director for Michigan LCV. "These reports are an important gauge of where we are in protecting our state's water resources. It is clear there are big holes to fill when it comes to protecting our water from the hazards posed by fracking."

The technical reports show that oil and gas companies are not required to fully, publicly disclose chemical additives to be pumped into fracking wells before a well is in use. They also point out loopholes that exempt oil and gas operations from Michigan's Water Withdrawal Assessment Process, which evaluates the impact of high-volume water withdrawals on watersheds. Elected officials and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality should take steps to address both shortcomings immediately.

"Fracking poses a number of threats to Michigan's clean water that are not adequately addressed by the state's current regulatory structure," said Schmitt. "We are long overdue to get our regulations right. Many of the fixes are clear, and with wells being permitted and drilled right now, Michigan communities cannot wait any longer for stronger protections."

Governor Snyder called on the Graham Sustainability Institute to address Michiganders' concerns, and investigate the environmental and social impacts of fracking. Final recommendations are due mid-2014.

###

Michigan League of Conservation Voters is the leading non-partisan political voice for protecting Michigan's land, air and water. Visit our website: <http://www.michiganlcv.org>.

