

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0008

Landowner indemnification.

Sponsored by: Joint Agriculture, State and Public Lands & Water Resources Interim Committee

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to environmental quality; specifying that a
2 surface owner is an innocent owner if the source of the
3 contamination is a pipeline as specified; and providing for
4 an effective date.

5

6 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

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8 **Section 1.** W.S. 35-11-1801(a)(v), (vi) and by
9 creating a new paragraph (vii) is amended to read:

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11 **35-11-1801. Definition of innocent owner.**

12

13 (a) "Innocent owner" means a person who did not cause
14 or contribute to the source of contamination and who is one
15 (1) of the following:

1

2 (v) A unit of state or local government which
3 acquired ownership or control through bankruptcy, tax
4 delinquency, abandonment or other circumstances in which
5 the government acquires title by virtue of its function as
6 sovereign, unless the state or local government contributed
7 to the contamination;~~or~~

8

9 (vi) A bona fide prospective purchaser;~~or~~ or

10

11 (vii) A surface owner if the source of the
12 contamination was a pipeline running under or across the
13 land of the surface owner and the surface owner was not
14 involved in the installation, operation or maintenance of
15 the pipeline.

16

17 **Section 2.** This act is effective July 1, 2015.

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(END)