

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6508

To amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to require that underground injection control programs prevent seismicity induced by underground injection activities, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 8, 2016

Mr. GRIJALVA introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to require that underground injection control programs prevent seismicity induced by underground injection activities, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Preventing Preventable
5 Earthquakes Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. SEISMICITY INDUCED BY HYDRAULIC FRACTURING.**

7 (a) PREVENTION OF SEISMICITY INDUCED BY UN-
8 DERGROUND INJECTION ACTIVITIES.—

1 (1) REGULATIONS FOR STATE PROGRAMS.—
2 Section 1421(b) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42
3 U.S.C. 300h(b)) is amended—

4 (A) in paragraph (1)—

5 (i) in subparagraph (C), by striking
6 “and” after the semicolon;

7 (ii) in subparagraph (D), by striking
8 the period at the end and inserting “;
9 and”; and

10 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
11 lowing new subparagraph:

12 “(E) shall include provisions designed to pre-
13 vent the occurrence of seismicity induced by under-
14 ground injection activities.”; and

15 (B) in paragraph (2), by inserting “or are
16 designed to prevent the occurrence of seismicity
17 induced by such injection” after “endangered
18 by such injection”.

19 (2) STATE PRIMARY ENFORCEMENT RESPONSIBI-
20 LITY.—Section 1422 of the Safe Drinking Water
21 Act (42 U.S.C. 300h-1) is amended—

22 (A) in subsection (a), by inserting “or re-
23 sult in the occurrence of seismicity induced by
24 such injection” after “endanger drinking water
25 sources”;

1 (B) in subsection (b)(3)—

2 (i) by inserting “(A)” before “If the
3 Administrator”; and

4 (ii) by adding at the end the fol-
5 lowing:

6 “(B) The Administrator shall, at least once
7 every 5 years, review each State underground injec-
8 tion control program approved under paragraph (2)
9 to determine if such State program meets the re-
10 quirements of clauses (i) and (ii) of paragraph
11 (1)(A) of this subsection.”; and

12 (C) in subsection (c), by inserting “or seis-
13 micity will not be induced by such injection”
14 after “endangered by such injection”.

15 (b) REPEAL OF EXEMPTION FOR HYDRAULIC FRAC-
16 TURING.—Section 1421(d)(1) of the Safe Drinking Water
17 Act (42 U.S.C. 300h(d)(1)) is amended by striking sub-
18 paragraph (B) and inserting the following:

19 “(B) includes the subsurface emplacement
20 of fluids or propping agents pursuant to hy-
21 draulic fracturing operations related to oil, gas,
22 or geothermal production activities.”.

23 (c) OPTIONAL DEMONSTRATION BY STATES RELAT-
24 ING TO OIL OR NATURAL GAS.—Section 1425 of the Safe
25 Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300h–4) is amended—

- 1 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “(A) through
2 (D)” and inserting “(A) through (E)”; and
3 (2) in subsection (b), by striking “(A) through
4 (D)” and inserting “(A) through (E)”.

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