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# Soapbox: Bill aims to bring clarity on fracking

Apr 18, 2014 | 8 Comments

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Colorado has witnessed a remarkable boom in oil and gas exploration in the past decade, along with an increase in our population on the beautiful Front Range. Natural gas production is important to meeting the needs of the state, but no less important than ensuring the health and safety of our residents.

We have all heard the competing points of view — in commercials, in forums, in written testimony and in many other venues — as to whether oil and gas activities across our state are safe. It is for this reason that I have introduced House Bill 14-1297, which asks a diverse group of scientific professionals to work with the Department of Public Health and Environment to conduct an analysis of the human health and quality of life impact these activities have — if any. The analysis will be conducted in compliance with

commonly accepted scientific procedures and will help us all make the correct decisions moving forward.

As someone who drives back and forth from Fort Collins to Denver several times each week, I have certainly noticed the change in the landscape — oil derricks and holding tanks interspersed among our rural and suburban communities, pastures and farmlands. I want to make sure there is a full understanding of any impact on the health of our communities and the long-term effects this activity might have on us, our children and our future.

HB 14-1297 will have a committee hearing at 1:30 p.m. Thursday before the Health Insurance and Environment Committee

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at the State Capitol in Denver.

The recent expansion of drilling has led some communities to ban hydraulic fracturing. No one should be left to make important decisions from a place of fear, but rather from a place of knowledge. My hope is that this bill will finally bring some clarity for our citizens.

Joann Ginal, Ph.D., is Colorado state representative for House District 52.

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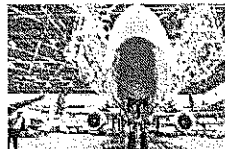
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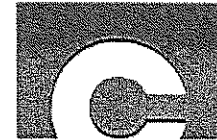


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