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National Wildlife Federation Welcomes New House and Senate Bills Requiring Disclosure of Toxic Chemicals Used in Hydraulic Fracturing

FRAC Act will protect wildlife habitats and public health

Washington, D.C. (March 15, 2011) – U.S. Representatives Diana DeGette, Jared Polis, Maurice Hinchey and Senators Robert Casey, Jr. and Charles Schumer introduced the Fracturing Responsibility and Awareness of Chemicals (FRAC) Act of 2011 today. The FRAC Act places the practice of hydraulic fracturing under the framework of the Safe Drinking Water Act and requires energy companies to disclose the toxic chemicals used in the process.

Todd Keller, Senior Manager, Public Lands Campaigns for National Wildlife Federation, said today,

"The FRAC Act provides an incredible opportunity to protect wildlife habitat and human health from toxic chemicals. Hunters, anglers, conservationists, and local communities are concerned about the impacts of hydraulic fracturing on water quality, wildlife, critical habitat. This legislation moves us toward responsible natural gas development. Exploration should not be done in a way that puts public health and wildlife habitat at risk from exposure to toxic chemicals."

"This key piece of legislation follows on the heels of statements from Bureau of Land Management Director Bob Abbey that mischaracterizes the impacts of hydraulic fracturing on water resources and downplays the public's right to know about what may be contaminating their drinking water. It is unfortunate a senior Department of the Interior official would be so cavalier with his words about such an important issue affecting communities all over the country."

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