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June 3, 2013

The Honorable Pat Quinn
Governor, State of Illinois
207 Statehouse
Springfield, IL 62706-0001

Dear Governor Quinn:

I write today to urge you to sign SB 1715, legislation that establishes parameters for oil and gas exploration commonly referred to as fracking, into law.

As you are aware this bill passed both the House and Senate with very large bipartisan majorities. The General Assembly understood the uniqueness of this legislation that brought the industry and environmental groups together in support of its passage.

The potential for job creation is amazing. Already many counties in my district have seen activity in their courthouses with the purchase of mineral rights by companies and entrepreneurs willing to risk their capital in hopes of a return.

Whether they see a return or not, begins with exploratory wells. If those wells are successful, I can only imagine the jobs that will be created directly in the drilling business, but also those in local restaurants and housing, etc.

In my role in Washington, I support the state's right to regulate fracking without the interference of the federal government. In addition, the rules put into place through this legislation would impose the toughest standards in the nation. Our constituents will be protected.

Also on the national scale, this will help strengthen domestic energy security. Accessing our country's own resources should both lower energy prices and reduce dependence on unfriendly foreign sources. Eventually we could become North American energy independent.

Finally, Illinois' unemployment rate is far too high. While this one bill is not the end all, it can certainly help in rural areas where every small step is appreciated.

Again, I urge you to sign SB 1715 into law and would gladly welcome a signing ceremony in the 15th Congressional District.

Sincerely,

JOHN SHIMKUS
Member of Congress

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