



To: Interested Parties

From: Chris Keating, *Harstad Strategic Research, Inc.*

Date: September 15, 2009

Re: Support for the Fracturing Responsibility and Awareness Act, and the Clean Water Act protecting all bodies of water from a statewide poll in Montana

HARSTAD STRATEGIC RESEARCH conducted a telephone survey among 605 registered voters statewide in Montana. Interviews were conducted from August 3-5, 2009.

Key Findings

- **By nearly a 2-to-1 majority, Montana voters agree the Clean Water Act should protect all bodies of water from pollution vs. the Clean Water Act should not apply to all bodies of water.**

Voters in Montana heard the following two contrasting statements concerning what the Clean Water Act should protect:

Some / Other people say that the Clean Water Act which was originally passed in the 1970's has always protected ALL bodies of water from pollution, and not just those defined as navigable. And the Clean Water Act should protect all streams, headwaters, waterways, and bodies of water from pollution that could contaminate drinking water, foul wildlife habitats, or make rivers, lakes and streams unusable for fishing and swimming.

Other / Some people say the Supreme Court recently ruled that the Clean Water Act only protects navigable waterways. And the Clean Water Act should NOT apply to all bodies of water, such as headwaters or other waterways that are not defined as navigable, because this would amount to over-regulation by the federal government on private property owners, businesses or developers.

After hearing these two contrasting statements about the Clean Water Act, a strong 60% majority of voters in Montana agree that the Clean Water Act should protect all streams, headwaters, waterways and bodies of water from pollution, while 31% say the Clean Water Act should not apply to all bodies of water.

Support for the Clean Water Act protecting all bodies of water includes majorities among all of the key voter blocs in Montana.

- Voters of all political persuasions: Democrats (76% say the CWA should protect all bodies of water), Independents (57%), and Republicans (50%);
- Voters in Montana's seven more urban counties, Cascade, Flathead, Gallatin, Lewis and Clark, Missoula, Silver Bow, and Yellowstone (63% say the CWA should protect all bodies of water), and voters in the remaining more rural counties (55%);
- Men (61% say the CWA should protect all bodies of water), and women (60% favor);
- Young and old: age 18-39 (58% say the CWA should protect all bodies of water), age 40-59 (60%), and age 60+ (63%);
- Voters who consider themselves to be environmentalists or conservationists (66% say the Clean Water Act should protect all bodies of water), voters who go fishing or hunting (62%), and voters who work in farming or ranching (50% say the Clean Water Act should protect all bodies of water).

▪ **More than two-out-of-three voters in Montana favor the Fracturing Responsibility and Awareness of Chemicals (FRAC) Act, while only 18% of voters oppose it.**

Voters in Montana heard the following description of Fracturing Responsibility and Awareness of Chemicals (FRAC) Act:

Hydraulic fracturing – also known as fracking – involves the injection of water, sand and chemicals into oil and gas wells in order to release the oil and gas that is trapped inside. Some members of Congress are considering a new federal law called the Fracturing Responsibility and Awareness of Chemicals Act which would regulate fracking under the Safe Drinking Water Act, and it would require anyone using hydraulic fracturing to disclose the chemicals they are using in the fracking process.

After hearing this description, fully 68% of voters in Montana favor the Fracturing Responsibility and Awareness of Chemicals (FRAC) Act, including 54% who *strongly* favor it.

The Fracturing Responsibility and Awareness of Chemicals (FRAC) Act receives majority support from voters from all political persuasions: Democrats (80% favor the FRAC Act), Independents (72%) and Republicans (57%).

Strong majorities of voters across the key voter groups in Montana support the Fracturing Responsibility and Awareness of Chemicals (FRAC) Act:

- Voters in Montana's seven more urban counties, Cascade, Flathead, Gallatin, Lewis and Clark, Missoula, Silver Bow, and Yellowstone (70% favor the FRAC Act), and voters in the remaining more rural counties (65%);
- Men (66% favor the FRAC Act) and women (70%);
- Young and old: age 18-39 (70% favor the FRAC Act), age 40-59 (68%), and age 60+ (67%);
- Households that work in farming or ranching (57% favor the FRAC Act);
- Voters who go fishing or hunting (68% favor the FRAC Act), and voters who consider themselves to be environmentalists or conservationists (78%).

The August 3-5, 2009 Montana Voter Survey was conducted by Harstad Strategic Research, Inc., the national public opinion research firm in Boulder, Colorado. The results of this survey are based upon 605 random telephone interviews among registered voters in Montana, using a voter list. The random sample of 605 has a worst-case 95% confidence interval of plus or minus 4.0% about any one reported percentage.