



FIRST AMENDMENT FOUNDATION

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January 13, 2014

The Honorable Matt Caldwell
The Florida House of Representatives
218 House Office Building
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300

Re: HB 157, Exemption/Fracturing Chemical Usage Disclosure Act

Dear Representative Caldwell:

We have carefully reviewed HB 157, which provides a public record exemption trade secrets contained within documents relating to hydraulic fracturing treatments obtained by DEP's Division of Resource Management. This bill is scheduled for a hearing tomorrow morning in the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Subcommittee.

While we do not object to the substance of the bill or the purpose of the proposed exemption, we strongly suggest the bill be amended to specifically state that only those parts of such document marked as "trade secret" will be withheld pursuant to a public records request.

Thank you for your attention to our concerns, Representative Caldwell. Should you need any additional information, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Barbara A. Petersen, President

Cc: The Honorable Will Weatherford, Speaker of the House of Representatives
Jon Kaney, General Counsel, First Amendment Foundation
Sam Morley, General Counsel, Florida Press Association
Sandy D'Alemberte, Florida Society of News Editors