

ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 154

Introduced by Stinner, 48.

PURPOSE: LB512 was introduced in the 2015 legislative session because of citizen concerns about an application filed with the Nebraska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission regarding the approval of a salt wastewater injection well in Sioux County.

A Colorado company has proposed to inject salt wastewater used in oil and gas production into a dry oil well which has the potential to be the largest disposal well in the state, with as many as 80 trucks hauling over 10,000 barrels of wastewater to the disposal site daily. The wastewater would come from Nebraska, Wyoming, and Colorado and could contain chemicals used in hydraulic fracturing, also known as "fracking".

The concerns and questions raised by citizens about the proposal include (a) whether the disposal of such wastewater in a subterranean region in Nebraska may trigger earthquakes, (b) the long-term costs of monitoring such wells and how the clean-up would be financed if damage were done, (c) the possibility of contamination of water used for human consumption, irrigation, and the watering of livestock, and (d) if the heavy truck traffic will damage Nebraska's roadways and pose a highway safety problem.

The purpose of this resolution is to investigate and make recommendations regarding the authority of the Nebraska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission and its role in decisions regarding the disposal of salt wastewater into dry wells. The study shall address what can be done to protect the environment, the surface and underground water supply, and public safety. The study should make recommendations if further regulation is deemed necessary and examine the funding needed and possible funding sources for such additional regulation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST SESSION:

1. That the Natural Resources Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.