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## **GROW-IL Coalition Launches in Illinois to Support Hydraulic Fracturing**

*Diverse Coalition Supports Common Sense Public Policy that  
Creates Jobs, Protects the Environment and Generates Millions in Revenue for the State*

SPRINGFIELD, IL – A diverse group of business, labor, construction, transportation and agricultural organizations have launched a coalition focused on enacting common sense hydraulic fracturing legislation in Springfield. The GROW-IL (Growing Resources and Opportunity for the Workforce in Illinois) coalition is led by the Illinois Manufacturers' Association, Illinois AFL-CIO and the Illinois Petroleum Council. The coalition includes more than a dozen statewide organizations supporting public policy that creates jobs for working families, includes strong regulations on industry while protecting local communities and the environment and generates millions of dollars in revenue for the state annually. GROW-IL believes utilizing existing energy resources will reduce the reliance on foreign sources of energy while business, labor and consumers will benefit from low-cost energy for decades to come.

Hydraulic fracturing is the process of releasing natural gas and oil from rock deposits deep underground by fracturing shale formations. This cutting-edge technology allows shale gas to be safely extracted from the New Albany Shale in southeast Illinois. The United States is poised to become the largest producer of both natural gas and oil in the next five years and Illinois can be a leader in that energy effort if Springfield can support policies to maximize our energy resources.

“We believe a common sense approach exists that will create jobs, generate millions of dollars in revenue for the state while protecting the environment for decades to come,” said **Mark Denzler, Vice President/COO, Illinois Manufacturers' Association**. “As we have seen in other states, hydraulic fracturing technology results in a tremendous economic boost for nearly every sector of the economy and that’s why so many voices have come together to join this coalition.”

“Working families in Illinois are looking for good, safe high-paying jobs and we believe hydraulic fracturing can do that right away,” said **Michael Carrigan, President, Illinois AFL-CIO**. “When labor and business are on the same page, that usually translates into good things for business, the people they employ and consumers.”

“All of our industries are poised to grow and invest in our state if we can pass common sense regulations that will stimulate the development of shale gas in Illinois,” said **Jim Watson, Executive Director, Illinois Petroleum Council**. “This is an opportunity to provide millions of dollars in state revenue and thousands of good jobs.”

### **Coalition Members Include (in formation):**

Illinois Manufacturers' Association  
Illinois AFL-CIO  
Illinois Petroleum Council  
Illinois Retail Merchants Association  
Illinois Chamber of Commerce  
Chemical Industry Council of Illinois  
Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce  
Illinois Association of Convenience Stores  
Illinois Petroleum Marketers Association  
Illinois Oil & Gas Association  
Illinois Railroad Association  
Illinois Assoc. of Aggregate Producers  
Illinois American Water

U.S. Steel Corporation  
Illinois Fertilizer & Chemical Association  
Illinois Trucking Association  
Mid-West Truckers Association  
Southwest Illinois Employers Association  
Illinois State Council of Operating Engineers  
American Chemistry Council  
Illinois Business Roundtable  
Consumer Energy Alliance  
IBEW Local #134  
Mayor Bob Butler, Marion  
Mayor Tom Jordan, West Frankfort  
Mayor Vic Ritter, Herrin