



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **OKOGA: EPA BOWS TO POLITICAL PRESSURE IN HYDRAULIC FRACTURING REPORT**

OKLAHOMA CITY – The Oklahoma Oil & Gas Association (OKOGA) released the following statement in response to the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) report today that revises the conclusions to the Assessment Report on hydraulic fracturing and drinking water resources:

“It is disappointing that EPA is bowing to the pressure of politics with this announcement, just one year after releasing a five-year draft that concluded there is no evidence of hydraulic fracturing leading to a ‘widespread, systemic impact on drinking water,’” said Chad Warmington, president of OKOGA. “The EPA’s 2015 announcement is backed by several Obama administration officials, representing Department of Energy, Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management and more, who have gone on the record before Congress and spoken to the media stating that there is no evidence of impacts to groundwater from hydraulic fracturing operations. Despite the EPA’s crafting of words to muddy the water, the science and data EPA used to draw its original conclusion in 2015 still hold true today that fracking is safe.

“At OKOGA, our members are committed to building and supporting the state’s economy with safe and responsible development of oil and natural gas. Our members are using innovative technology to ensure our operations have minimal impact to the communities where hydraulic fracturing is taking place and are regularly in communication with state regulators and researchers to protect our state’s resources. EPA’s change to its Assessment Report after the election is another fine example of solutions in search of problems that don’t exist. It is exactly why we need Oklahoma’s Attorney General Scott Pruitt to lead the EPA and return it to its mission of collaborative science-based approaches to protecting the environment instead of politically motivated witch-hunts.”

### **Background**

The Oklahoma Oil & Gas Association, founded in 1919, is the oldest energy trade association in the United States. Nearly a century later, the association remains dedicated to the advancement and improvement of the oil and natural gas industry within the state of Oklahoma and throughout the nation. It is a non-profit association composed of oil and gas producers, operators, purchasers, pipelines, transporters, processors, refiners, marketers and service companies which represent a substantial sector of the oil and natural gas industry within Oklahoma. The activities of OKOGA include support for legislative and regulatory measures designed to promote both the well-being and best interests of the citizens of this state and a strong and vital petroleum industry within the State of Oklahoma and throughout the United States.

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