



OKLAHOMA KEY BUSINESS SYSTEMS

ENERGY POWERING OKLAHOMA

Current Events

State Bill (SB) 809 passed through the Oklahoma House of Representatives on April 22, 2015, this bill will affect Oklahoma oil and gas companies. It will stop localities (city governments) from restricting or placing bans on a list of oil and gas activities, and explains that such regulations are under the direction of the Oklahoma Corporation Commission.

This bill is not a law yet. It has passed through the House of Representatives and will next be introduced to the State Senate. If this bill is passed through the Senate it will then go to the governor who will sign it into law.

What will this bill do?

City governments will be able to “establish reasonable setbacks and fencing requirements for oil and gas well site locations...but may not effectively prohibit or ban any oil and gas operations, including oil and gas exploration, drilling, fracture stimulation, completion, production, maintenance, plugging and abandonment, produced water disposal, secondary recovery operations, flow and gathering lines or pipeline infrastructure.” This means that local governments cannot place a ban on work done by oil and gas companies. However, local governments will be allowed reasonable ordinances related to road use, traffic, noise and odor.

SB 809 also requires that any local law that effectively interferes with access to, or takes control of, mineral rights would be considered a taking. This means that royalty owners can seek compensation from the local governments that enact bans, under state law.

Oil and Natural Gas Companies recognize the need for public agreement on where drilling will take place. These companies are well informed and capable of making educated decisions regarding where and when it is safe to drill, but they will continue to take citizen concerns seriously.

Let's do the research...

- Look up State Bill 809 and read it.
- What benefits do you think this bill will have on our state?
- Do you think the bill will have any negative affects? What are they?
- What improvements would you make to SB 809?