American Dilemmas
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Should Congress Pass the FRAC Act? Sub 3 ✓

After examining the arguments presented by both sides of the controversy and analyzing the evidence of each, the most sensible solution would be for congress not to pass the FRAC Act. This would allow the Natural-gas industry to continue fracking and even allow for the industry to grow, thus providing a surplus of jobs for Americans. Fracking and the Natural-gas Industry are important to U.S. Employment; more than 72,000 natural-gas jobs have been filled since 2009 (Shawver). Another reason not to limit Fracking is that it reduces the U.S. Dependence on foreign energy sources. A growth in the domestic production of natural-gas reduces the costs and generates a more stable supply; the U.S. Shale deposits are thought to hold about 100 years worth of natural-gas (Shale Gas). Congress should not pass the FRAC Act, because it would limit the growth of the industry, thus limiting the jobs created to promote employment and it's potential to decrease dependency on foreign energy.

One of the counterarguments to allowing Fracking to continue without any disclosure of chemicals is that the hydraulic-fracturing process is harmful to the environment. Some of the supposed 600 or so chemicals pumped into shale deposits are thought to be pollutants to nearby water sources. As previously mentioned, in the film "Gas Land" a man is shown lighting his faucet water on fire because of high levels of methane caused by nearby fracking operations. However, the distance between drinking water aquifers and reservoir targets for gas production is several thousand feet of impermeable rock (Economides). Any methane present in the water had to have been there geologically, and had to have been there long before (Economides). If methane leaking through layers of rock doesn't happen, then the argument can be made that bodies of water are polluted when waste water from a fracking operation is disposed of by being dumped into a nearby body of water. However, there are currently 74 water treatment facilities on the Marcellus shale formation that treat the waste water before releasing it into streams (Stromberg).