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Susan Sommer wrote a letter in the Oct. 23 Vilas News-Review "Citizens are losing local control again."

The letter criticizes Sen. Tom Tiffany's draft legislation, the Regulatory Certainty Act. The bill would establish uniform standards for nonmetallic mines statewide. It is still in it's early stages.

At first glance, I wondered why all of a sudden Ms. Sommer is championing local control. She has always advocated for unlimited government control over our lives. Why the change?

As I see it, the draft legislation would prevent a very small number of extreme environmentalists from enacting legislation with standards so unrealistically tight that they would make industrial sand mining used in fracking nearly impossible. Businesses would be reluctant to open here not knowing what standards they would have to adhere to. This could even effect the 90 mines that have started since 2006.

Sand fracking (hydraulic fracturing) is used to extract natural gas from shale rock. We will be able to produce 9% of the world's natural gas needs. Natural gas is a very clean alternative to other fossil fuels. It has created many, many, good jobs.

Without the energy from fracking, our fragile economy would go into another deep recession as energy prices skyrocketed. Due to increased dependence on energy from unfriendly countries, conflict would increase and many more lives would be lost.

Sadly, there are many extreme environmentalists who would stop all fracking at any cost, by any means. I hope Ms. Sommer is not one of them and that isn't the reason for her sudden change.

## Sommer changes tune on local control stance Tuesday, October 29, 2013 11:06 AM -

Charlie Gullan

Eagle River\_\_PUBLIC\_\_