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Kasich: Bill is tough but fair

By MARC KOVAC

AKRON – Gov. John Kasich touted energy legislation signed into law Monday as tough but fair, protecting the environment while setting the stage for economic development.

“We were not going to develop shale gas at the expense of the environment,” Kasich said. “And we have contained in this bill the most aggressive, clearest, fairest and strongest fracking regulations that you can find anywhere in the country.”

He added later, “We have, without any doubt, the toughest law on fracking fluid in America.”

The comments came just before the governor added his signature to Senate Bill 315, lengthy legislation that included policy proposals related to advanced and renewable energy, water conservation and waste- water treatment.

Kasich signed the bill in Akron at Echogen Power Systems, a company that has developed an apparatus that converts waste heat from industrial operations into energy. The legislation includes provisions to promote the use of such technologies.

“You’re generating this waste heat,” he said. “It goes up into the environment. ... It’s going up, and now you can capture it, you can clean the environment and generate the ability for more power for the companies. They save money, the environment is cleaner and we can meet our standards in a way in which we don’t have to buy more expensive power.”

Sections of the bill related to horizontal hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, generated much public debate in recent months.

The law changes will require increased disclosure of fracking chemicals and water usage, water well sampling within 1,500 feet of proposed horizontal wells and so-called “cradle-to-grave” documentation and tracking of oil and gas wells from the time they are started until they are capped.

Shippers of brine and other waste fluids will have to be disclosed prior to injection into disposal wells.

“We will not permit wild-cattling without an awful lot of reporting and seismic imaging,” Kasich said.

The bill also requires increased inspections of wells and liability insurance coverage for well owners. Drillers who break the law could face up to \$20,000 in daily fines.

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