

# VOTE **YES** TO **BAN FRACKING** IN MARYLAND

The 2017 General Assembly session is legislators' last chance to fully protect the health, environment and tourism economy of Marylanders from the toxic practice of fracking for gas. Unless the General Assembly acts to ban fracking this year, Governor Larry Hogan could begin issuing permits for dangerous drilling starting in October 2017, risking potentially irreversible damage.

Since the General Assembly wisely enacted a two-year moratorium on fracking in 2015, hundreds of new peer-reviewed scientific studies have found widespread health and environmental harms associated with fracking and related infrastructure. Meanwhile, no regulatory framework has been shown capable of preventing significant harm.

A permanent ban on fracking is the only "gold standard" that would ensure the health and safety of all Marylanders. It's also what the Maryland public wants.

## Fracking threatens our health

- People living near fracking operations are getting sick. This is no longer "anecdotal"-- major research institutions are now confirming this reality. More than 80 percent of the peer-reviewed studies on human health impacts of fracking show risks or actual harms.
- Studies from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health documented increases in asthma attacks, premature births, high-risk pregnancies, migraines, sinus infections and fatigue among people living near active fracking operations.
- **More than 170 Maryland health professionals have signed a letter calling on the General Assembly to ban fracking. A growing number of health groups, including the Maryland Public Health Association, are now also calling for a ban in 2017.**



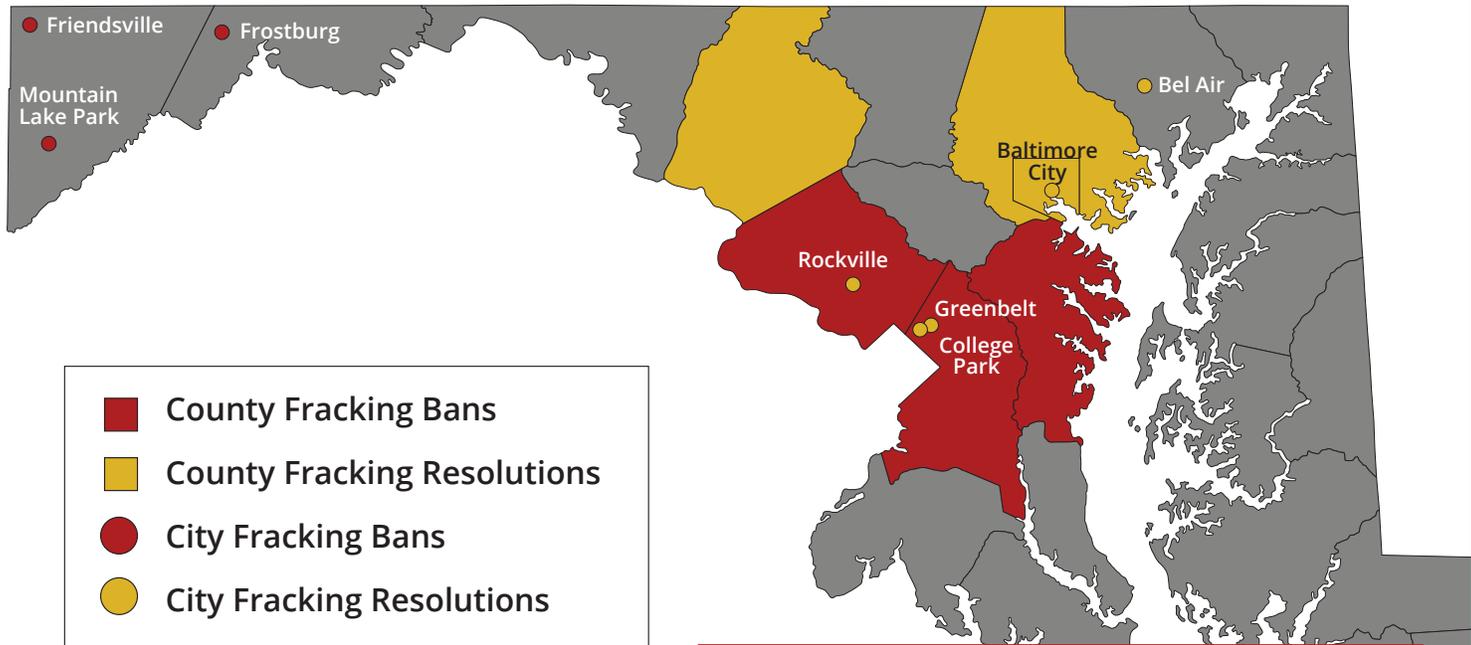
## Fracking threatens our economy

- Maryland has a lot to lose and little to gain if the fracking industry moves into our state. While the oil and gas industry operates on a boom-and-bust cycle and relies heavily on out-of-state workers, Maryland's tourism and agriculture industries generate sustainable economic activity across the state.
- Garrett County, likely the first to be targeted if fracking is allowed, welcomes 1.2 million visitors a year and is the second-largest tourism destination in Maryland, generating \$347 million in local revenue annually.
- Fracking diminishes property values, which can lower local tax revenue, and the heavy truck traffic required can cost local governments millions in road and infrastructure repairs.
- **More than 110 local businesses across Maryland have signed a letter calling on the General Assembly to ban fracking, including 85 businesses in Garrett and Allegany Counties.**

## Fracking threatens our clean water, air, and climate

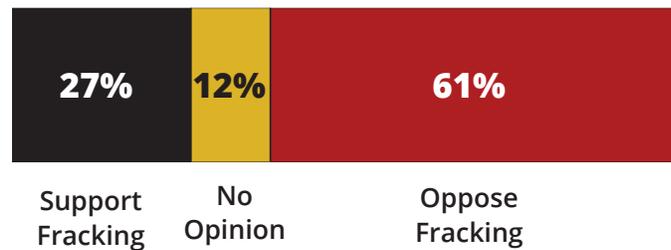
- More than 280 cases have been confirmed of private drinking water contamination related to oil and gas activities in Pennsylvania alone.

# Fracking Bans and Resolutions in Maryland



**61% of likely Maryland voters oppose fracking.**

*The Washington Post*



**SOURCE:** Washington Post poll published October 7, 2016. [www.washingtonpost.com/page/2010-2019/WashingtonPost/2016/10/07/National-Politics/Polling/question\\_17514.xml?uuid=-xfColx0EeaM3E-7GXO1Bg](http://www.washingtonpost.com/page/2010-2019/WashingtonPost/2016/10/07/National-Politics/Polling/question_17514.xml?uuid=-xfColx0EeaM3E-7GXO1Bg)

- Millions of gallons of fresh water are required to drill a single well, resulting in massive volumes of toxic wastewater that can easily leak or run off into soils or surface water.
- Fracking is incompatible with a safe climate future and would undermine Maryland's commitment to tackling climate change. The process releases huge amounts of methane, which is 86 times more powerful over 20 years than carbon dioxide at trapping heat in the atmosphere.

## Fracking cannot be adequately regulated

- Even so-called "gold standard" or "platinum package" regulations fail to adequately protect public health and the environment. Wells leak, spills happen, earthquakes damage -- no regulations can solve these problems.
- Governor Hogan has weakened provisions of the regulations, increasing risks to the environment and to Maryland residents, and regulations without tough enforcement are meaningless.
- Contamination of air and water can't be undone. Neither can earthquake damage. The more Marylanders learn about fracking, the more they want to keep it out of our state.

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