

Position Statement in Support of a Long-Term Moratorium on Fracking in Maryland

Concerned by the rapidly expanding evidence of harm and the growing uncertainties caused by unconventional natural gas development and production, we, the undersigned organizations, call for a long-term moratorium on high-volume hydraulic fracturing in Maryland.

The emerging science now includes hundreds of peer-reviewed studies, case studies, and reports demonstrating that permitting fracking in Maryland poses significant threats to the health and safety of Marylanders and to the quality of our air, water, and soil. Furthermore, it is clear that fundamental data gaps remain regarding the long-term and cumulative health effects of fracking and how to effectively mitigate risks. There is no evidence that the state can regulate hydraulic fracturing in a way that adequately protects public health, natural resources, or the economy.

Citing significant public health risks, including those documented in Maryland's own health study, New York recently announced that it would ban hydraulic fracturing in the State. Maryland, too, should proactively protect the health of its residents.

Based on what we know now, we believe that fracking endangers public health and is the wrong approach to building a robust Maryland economy and a clean energy future. We urge Maryland's legislature to pass an extended moratorium in 2015.

Full List of Groups signed on to Position Statement (as of 1/13/2015):

Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility ♦ Alliance of Nurses for a Healthy Environment ♦ Maryland Environmental Health Network ♦ Interfaith Power & Light ♦ Citizen Shale ♦ Save Western Maryland ♦ Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake ♦ Garrett Countians for Smart Growth ♦ Calvert Citizens for a Healthy Community ♦ Myersville Citizens for a Rural Community ♦ Howard County Climate Change ♦ Transition Howard County ♦ Howard Park Civic Association ♦ The Harvest Collective ♦ Environment Maryland ♦ Progressive Democrats of America – Maryland ♦ Earthworks ♦ Waterkeepers Chesapeake ♦ Greenbelt Climate Action Network ♦ Chesapeake Climate Action Network ♦ Community Research ♦ Midshore Riverkeeper Conservancy ♦ Clean Water Action ♦ University of Maryland Student Sustainability Committee ♦ Patuxent Riverkeeper ♦ Mountainside Education and Enrichment ♦ Assateague Coastal Trust ♦ Severn Riverkeeper ♦ Maryland Sierra Club ♦ Maryland Pesticide Education Network ♦ Maryland League of Conservation Voters ♦ Gunpowder Riverkeeper ♦ Urban Ecosystems Restorations, Inc. ♦ South River Federation – South Riverkeeper ♦ Friends of Deep Creek Lake ♦ Montgomery County Progressive Alliance ♦ Maryland NOW ♦ Progressive Neighbors ♦ Food & Water Watch ♦ Organic Consumers Association ♦ Environmental Action ♦ Rachel Carson Council ♦ Center for Biological Diversity ♦ Friends of the Earth ♦ Daily Kos ♦ Waterkeeper Alliance ♦ Democracy for America ♦ Progressive Democrats of

America ♦ Moms Clean Air Force ♦ Riverkeeper ♦ Natural Resources Defense Council ♦ Mountain Watershed Association/Youghiogeny Riverkeeper ♦ Berks Gas Truth ♦ Grand Riverkeeper ♦ Cahaba Riverkeeper ♦ PASE ♦ Our Health, Our Future, Our Longmont ♦ Apalachicola Riverkeeper ♦ Altamaha Riverkeeper ♦ Lower Mississippi Riverkeeper ♦ Grand Riverkeeper Labrador, Inc.