

October 2, 2014

The Honorable Martin O'Malley
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Governor O'Malley,

We, the undersigned local, state and national organizations, urge you to protect the health of Maryland residents and demonstrate responsible national leadership by rejecting fracking. New scientific evidence, including the recently released study, "Potential Public Health Impacts of Natural Gas Development and Production," clarifies how shale gas extraction via hydraulic fracturing (fracking) would put the public health and wellbeing of Marylanders at risk.

When you announced the study three years ago, your laudable promise was to move forward with fracking only if it could be accomplished "without unacceptable risks of adverse impacts to public health, safety, the environment and natural resources." Since then, a compelling body of science has emerged that shows this standard cannot be met.

The recently released public health study – commissioned by the Maryland Department of the Environment and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and conducted by the Maryland School of Public Health – found that fracking would pose significant impacts to public health in Maryland. In seven of eight research areas – including air quality, worker health, noise and crime, water quality and cumulative effects – the research team found a high or moderately high likelihood of negative public health impacts.

Further, the study shows that fracking would disproportionately affect vulnerable segments of the population and that most regulations would not minimize risks. Notably, researchers determined that well setback distances would not reduce exposure to negative health impacts in six of the eight research areas. Finally, they noted the unmanageable nature of these impacts and the lack of time and resources to conduct a full health impact assessment for all of Maryland.

They are not alone in these findings. Numerous new studies by leading scientists and public health researchers have uncovered serious risks from fracking. For example, an exhaustive 292-page Council of Canadian Academies report published this summer concludes that fracking is, "not demonstrated to be safe under any current regulatory framework" with "environmental impacts not clearly understood." In deciding to halt fracking, the German Federal Environmental Agency has similarly concluded, "As long as there are no firm statements on the risks of this technology and how they can be controlled, there should be no fracking activity in Germany for the purpose of shale and coalbed gas extraction." These conclusions have been

echoed in peer-reviewed studies in many U.S. journals, complemented by hundreds of important recent findings and peer-reviewed studies demonstrating significant risks and harms of fracking.¹

That's the bottom line: the science – which is quickly revealing new, and often worse, harms of fracking – clearly shows that no regulatory framework can protect public health, water and other important resources from the negative impacts of fracking.

It is not surprising that recommendations of the Maryland study, which suggest strategies for addressing these health impacts should you approve fracking, focus on how to monitor toxic exposures rather than prevent them. We remind you that detection is not prevention, and the mere presence of air monitors and publicly available lists of fracking chemicals do not, by themselves, protect children, pregnant women, the elderly, or any Maryland resident, from harm. Moving forward with fracking under these conditions, in which risks are measured but not eliminated, is tantamount to enrolling citizens as nonconsenting subjects in a de facto public health experiment.

We are also mindful that the Maryland study, while addressing many salient areas of concern in the scientific literature, is not exhaustive. Most strikingly, the study focuses solely on western Maryland even though a much greater area of the state would be targeted for fracking. As such, many risks specific to particular geography, geology, demographics and other factors have not been examined. Additionally, some relevant impacts—risks stemming from flooding and the fate of toxic wastewater—were not addressed at all. Nor did the scope of the study include possible public health issues in upstream communities, such as those located near silica frac sand mining and processing operations. (Silica dust is a proven cause of both lung cancer and silicosis.) The Maryland study does not capture the evidence for dangerous levels of benzene in the urine of gas field workers nor the finding of a higher prevalence of self-reported respiratory and skin problems among people living near gas wells; these results were published after the Maryland study was released.

In short, the Maryland study provides more than sufficient imperative to say no to fracking in Maryland on the basis of the negative health impacts it predicts. On the grounds that the study likely underestimates these risks due to limitations of scope and time, the justification and imperative for rejecting fracking is even greater. Hence, your mandate to determine whether fracking could be done without harm to public health has been answered: it cannot.

Now we urge you to take a decisive stance for the people of Maryland, in line with the science, by saying no to fracking. Instead, protect Maryland's important natural resources and set the stage for greater investment in renewable energy, the power of the 21st century. The eyes of

the nation are watching, imploring you to protect public health and set a shining example for the rest of the country.

Sincerely,

National Organizations

David Braun

Americans Against Fracking

Annie Sartor

Breast Cancer Action

William Snape

Center for Biological Diversity

Zack Malitz

CREDO

Michael Langenmayr

Daily Kos

Jim Dean

Democracy for America

Jennifer Krill

Earthworks

John Rumpler

Environment America

Andrew Hudson

Environmental Action

John E. Peck

Family Farm Defenders

Wenonah Hauter

Food & Water Watch

Kate DeAngelis

Friends of the Earth

Josh Fox

Gasland I and II

Fran Teplitz

Green America

Kyle Ash

Greenpeace

Victoria Kaplan

MoveOn.org

Melinda Hughes-West

Nature Abounds

Deborah Berger, RN

National Nurses United

Stephen Kretzmann

Oil Change International

Conor Boylan & Andrea Miller

Progressive Democrats of America

Allison Fisher

Public Citizen

Amanda Starbuck

Rainforest Action Network

Peter Nichols

Waterkeeper Alliance

Regional, State and Local Organizations

Kathy Dervin
350 Bay Area

Micah Parkin
350 Colorado

Laurel Errington
350 New Jersey

Pat Almonrode
350 NYC

Lynn Ellen Marsh
Advocates for Cherry Valley

Tia Lebherz
Alameda County Against Fracking

Robert Nehman
Allamakee County Protectors

Jessica Azulay
Alliance for a Green Economy

Heather Cantino
Athens County Fracking Action Network

Jan Quarles
Back To Democracy

Stephen H Kresge
Baltimore City Homeowner

Colin Miller
Bay Localize

Amanda Means
Beacon Climate Action

Karen R. Feridun
Berks Gas Truth

Stephanie Region
Black is the New Green

Audrey Leggere-Hickey
BOCOCCR

Rebecca Roter
Breathe Easy Susquehanna County

Charlotte Phillips, M.D.
Brooklyn For Peace

Donna Carver
Buckeye Forest Council

Andrew Coleman
Bus for Progress

Bob Eklund
Butternut Valley Alliance

Myra Crawford
Butternut Valley Alliance

Kristy Drutman
California Students Against Fracking

Adam Scow
Californians Against Fracking

Tracey Eno
Calvert County Citizens for A Healthy Community

Robert Nast
Camp Nast Assocs. LLC

Karl Greenblatt
Canyon Land Conservation Fund

Jill Wiener
Catskills Citizens for Safe Energy

Wes Gillingham
Catskill Mountainkeeper

Tom Swan
CCAG (CT Citizen Action Group)

Molly Hauck
Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church

Madeline Stano
Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment

Dorothy Ji
Central Jersey Coalition Against Endless War

Martha Girolami
Chatham Research Group

Paul Ferrazzi
Citizens Coalition for a Safe Community

Barbara Warren
Citizens' Environmental Coalition

Jim Ramey
Citizens for a Healthy Community

Kelly Giddens
Citizens for a Healthy Fort Collins

Joyce Grant
Citizens for Oceanfront Preservation

Joe Levine
Citizens for Water

Harriet Shugarman
ClimateMama

Hope Taylor, MSPH
Clean Water for North Carolina

Denise DerGarabedian
Coalition Against Fracking in WNC

Deborah H. Chilton
Coalition Against Fracking Western North Carolina

Kathleen Maher
Coastal Monmouth Democratic Club

Vivian Beatrice
Cody Creek Farm

Connie Stomper
Community Planet

Greg Smith & Suchitra Balachandran
Community Research

Peter Norris
Community Rights Organization of Willits

Suzy Winkler
Concerned Burlington Neighbors

Patricia Popple
Concerned Chippewa Citizens

Mary Greer
Concerned Citizens Ohio

Nick Teti
Coshocton Environmental and Community Awareness

M.I. Moise
Creative Heart Mission

Alberto Hernandez
CWA Local 1082

B. Arrindell
Damascus Citizens for Sustainability

Tracy Carluccio
Delaware Riverkeeper Network

Susan Kopicki
Democracy for America-Orange County CA

Joanne Cromley
Don't Frack Michigan

Joseph Wilson
Dryden Resource Awareness Coalition

Ken Gale
Eco-Logic

Quincy Saul
Ecosocialist Horizons

Joanna Diamond
Environment Maryland

Doug O'Malley
Environment New Jersey

Christian Adams
Environment Ohio

Keely wood
EnvironmentaLEE

Ron Prosek
FaCT-Faith Communities Together for Frack Awareness

August Miller
FoodShed Productions

Julia Walsh
Frack Action

Sue Rosenberg
Frack Free Catskills

Razz Gormley
Frack Free Colorado

Joni Clark Stellar
Frack-Free Butte County

Lea Harper
FreshWater Accountability Project Ohio

Carol Ralbag
Friends of Butternuts

Celia Scott
Friends of the Pogonip

Sheila Cohen
Gas Drilling Awareness for Cortland County

Yvonne Taylor
Gas Free Seneca

Earl Hatley
Grand Riverkeeper, Oklahoma

Jeanette Vosburg
Grassroots Coalition

Patricia Wood
Grassroots Environmental Education

Vickie Hennessy
Green Environmental Coalition

Richard P. Fuller
Green Party of Monmouth County

Luana Conley
Green Party of Monterey County

Mike Carberry
Green State Solutions

David Kalb
Groton Resource Awareness Coalition

Rev. Meredith Moise
Groundswell Energy

Elaine Chiosso
Haw River Assembly

Karen Pike-Roberts
HydroReliefWeb

Alma Hasse
Idaho Concerned Area Residents for the Environment

Dawn Dannenbring
Illinois People's Action

Joelle Novey
Interfaith Power & Light

Terri Eickel
Interreligious Eco-Justice Network

Adam Mason
Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement

Donna Dupree
Jackson County Coalition Against Fracking

Julie Ann Edgar
Lehigh Valley Gas Truth

Nellie Diaz
LULAC – Orange County

Janie Painter
Medicine Lake Citizens for Quality Environment

Rod Webstrer
Merced Group of the Sierra Club

Peggy Case
Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation

Kelly Branigan
Middlefield Neighbors

Kimberlee Wright
Midwest Environmental Advocates

Mill Valley Seniors for Peace

Julie Levine
MLK Coalition of Greater Los Angeles

Karen Hansen
Monterey County Against Fracking

Nik Sushka
Montgomery County Young Democrats

Michelle Berditschevsky
Mount Shasta Bioregional Ecology Center

Elaine Lite
Mountain Voices Alliance

Krissy Kasserman
Mountain Watershed Association

Ann M. Nau
Myersville Citizens for a Rural Community

Jodi Lasseter
NC Climate Justice Summit

Vanessa Pesec
NEOGAP (Network for Oil and Gas Accountability and Protection)

Russ Haven
New York Public Interest Research Group

John Armstrong
New Yorkers Against Fracking

Bonnie Wright
NH Right to Know GMO

Carol E. Gay
NJ State Industrial Union Council

Diane Wexler
Northjersey Pipeline Walkers

Brooke Newell
NY State Council of Churches

Buck Moorhead
NYH2O

Diane Dunne
OC Against Fracking

Jessica Roff
Occupy the Pipeline

Nicole A. Dillingham
Otsego 2000, Inc.

Julie Huntsman, DVM
Otsego Neighbors

Laura Fronckiewicz
Our Broomfield

Kaye Fissinger
Our Health Our Future Our Longmont

Jim Black
Partnership for Sustainability

Craig L. Stevens
Patriots From The Marcellus Shale

Frederick Tutman
Patuxent Riverkeeper

Carole Levers
PDA- North Orange County

Maria Payan
Peach Bottom Concerned Citizens Group

Adam Garber
PennEnvironment

Pat Rathmann
PESC

Teresa Mendez-Quigley
*Physicians for Social Responsibility
Philadelphia*

Barbara Warren
*Physicians for Social Responsibility, AZ
Chapter*

Robert Wikler
Plains Alliance for Clean Air and Water

Jeff Kelble
Potomac Riverkeeper Inc.

Dorothy Reik
*Progressive Democrats of the Santa Monica
Mountains*

Anne Novak
Protect Mustangs

Sharon J. Carlisle
*PROTECT OUR LOVELAND Our Health Our
Voice*

Jon Berger
Real Food Challenge

Geri Wiley
Residents Against Fracking Tioga

Toby Stover
Rochester Defense Against Fracking

Robyn Janssen
Rogue Riverkeeper

Mary Kushner
*Roseland Against the Compressor Station
(RACS)*

Bill Podulka, Ph.D.
*ROUSE (Residents Opposing Unsafe Shale-
Gas Extraction)*

Kate Wilson
Russian Riverkeeper

Hugh Moore
San Diego County Green Party

Deb Self
San Francisco Baykeeper

Peg Mitchell
SanDiego350

Christan F Gerlach
*Save Nevada's Water: Ban Fracking In
Nevada*

Isaac Silberman-Gorn
Save the Southern Tier

Russell S. Donnelly
SECAP

Mary Menapace
ShaleshockCNY

Lauren Swain
Sierra Club Denver Metro Network

Michael Gorr
Southern Cayuga Anti-Fracking Alliance

Joanne Gerson
Southwest Ohio No Frack Forum

Lupe Anguiano
Stewards of the Earth

Becky Meier
Stop New York Fracked Gas Pipeline

Suzannah Glidden
Stop the Algonquin Pipeline Expansion

Leese Walker
Strike Anywhere Performance Ensemble

Isaac Lederman
*Students United for a Responsible Global
Environment*

Wendy Robinson
*Sullivan Area Citizens for Responsible
Energy Development (SACRED)*

Shoshana Wechsler
Sunflower Alliance

Sheila Cohen
*SUNY Cortland Environmental Justice
Committee*

Luana Conley
Sustainable Carmel Valley

Adrian Kuzminski
Sustainable Otsego

Gay Nicholson
Sustainable Tompkins

Jack Eidt
Tar Sands Action Southern California

Kelly Canavan
The AMP Creeks Council

Wendy Weiner
The Front Yard Farmer

Leigh Garofalow
The Mothers Project of New Jersey

Jim and Diane Schrack
The Question Alliance

Julie Levine
Topanga Peace Alliance

Lib Hutchby
Triangle WILPF

Ling Tsou
United for Action

Pat Roberts
Vestal Residents for Safe Energy

Betsy Nicholas
Waterkeepers Chesapeake

Suzanne Golas, csjp
WATERSPIRIT

Nada Khader
WESPAC Foundation

Melissa Elstein
West 80s Neighborhood Association

Susan Van Dolsen
Westchester for Change

Randee Webb
What the Frack?! Arapahoe

Helen Yost
Wild Idaho Rising Tide

Al Gedicks
Wisconsin Resources Protection Council

Rosalyn Fielding
Yadkin And Davie Against Fracking

¹ Concerned Health Professionals of New York. Compendium of Scientific, Medical and Media Findings Demonstrating Risks and Harms Of Fracking (Unconventional Gas and Oil Extraction). July 10, 2014. Available online: <http://concernedhealthny.org/compendium/>