

Dear Legislator,

Over 3,000 citizens in northern Michigan signed a petition demanding a ban on horizontal fracking. We present these signatures to you today. Be aware that this is just the first installment - we are on our way to collecting another 3,000, and are working with groups around the state doing the same.

Horizontal fracking threatens to devastate Michigan's environment, public health and economy. Every state which has allowed the use of horizontal fracking has experienced poisoned air, rivers and streams; fresh water contaminated and forever removed from the hydrologic cycle; gas well leaks and explosions; debilitating health problems including asthma, neurological disease and cancer; dead wildlife and livestock; earthquakes; toxic gas plumes causing families to evacuate their homes; poisoned and exploding water wells; loss of property value and ruined roads from 24-hour truck traffic.

What will we get in return for allowing gas companies to exploit and destroy our health and environment?

NOT fuel independence: Gas is sold on the international market. Most goes overseas to China and India. Many companies drilling in the U.S. including in Michigan are foreign-owned.

NOT an improved economy: Gas drilling is a boom/bust industry. A few may get rich but many more lose as home values plummet and health care costs rise due to pollution from drilling. The industrialization of large swaths of forested state land destroys tourism-based business and the environment.

NOT a bridge to clean energy: Gas companies are exempt from the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act, and Michigan Water Withdrawal rules. Tax subsidies and exemptions from environmental laws enjoyed by gas companies make it impossible for green energy technologies to develop and compete. The total carbon footprint for gas development is dirtier than coal.

Detroit, Wayne County and over 100 municipalities across the country have passed resolutions against the use of horizontal fracking. Its use has been banned in France, South Africa and temporarily in Quebec. Its continued use in Michigan simply delays conversion to clean, green sustainable energy and causes irreparable destruction to our most precious resources and way of life.

We call on you to stand up for the people of Michigan. Protect our environment, health and economy. Call for an end to this destructive practice. Call for a ban of horizontal fracking in Michigan.

Sincerely,

Don't Frack Michigan