

Hon. Andrew Cuomo  
Governor, New York State  
State Capitol  
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

I strongly urge you to reverse your decision to allow fracking in parts of New York State and issue an outright ban on gas drilling by hydraulic fracturing throughout the State. If fracking cannot be done safely in the New York City and Syracuse watersheds, state lands, and other primary aquifers, how can it be done safely **anywhere** in New York? Your current proposal to allow some fracking not only jeopardizes the health of your constituents, but also breaks your campaign promise that you "would not support any drilling that would threaten the State's major sources of drinking water."

Whatever the currently perceived economic benefits of drilling, whether to the state or to individual landowners, they will be wiped out by the taxes and fees necessary to fund filtration systems and other safety measures. With the state having instituted drastic cuts to close the budget gap this past year and facing a several billion dollar gap next year, how could it be in the best interests of your constituents to saddle them with more costs, all while polluting our water and endangering food supplies both upstate and downstate? Instituting a ban is the only fiscally responsible and safe action to take.

We already know that:

- The State Department of Environmental Conservation, in charge of oversight and inspections, has had its staff cut drastically;
- The State has no contingency plans and no resources to deal with a worst-case emergency, particularly one that could affect drinking water; and
- There is no requirement that drilling companies have the finances, equipment, or knowledge to deal with an emergency.

If we have learned nothing else from the catastrophes in the Gulf of Mexico and Japan, it is that industry cannot be relied upon to consider or be prepared for emergency scenarios. In addition, news reports have raised further concerns about lax governmental oversight of the industry and the costs, benefits, and safety of drilling.

Please institute an outright ban on all gas drilling in New York State that uses hydraulic fracturing.

Sincerely,

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Three Parks Independent Democrats**

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