

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Obama:

I am writing to you because your administration has cast aside the lessons of the BP oil disaster, and currently supports the use of hydraulic fracturing for shale gas drilling in the United States, a position that is exposing tens of millions of people to deadly toxins, and causing irreparable environmental damage. I urge you to take strong, decisive action to reverse course, and take the leadership to protect the public health and well-being of our country and our people through the following actions:

- Promote the immediate passage of the FRAC Act, which would give the EPA authority over the process of hydraulic fracturing, and amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to require the companies utilizing hydraulic fracturing to disclose the chemicals they use for the process;
- Reverse the authorization of the Army Corp of Engineers that allows gas drilling in the Delaware River Basin, and places 40 million people at immediate risk;
- Veto any legislation that encourages development or application of gas-powered industries, including power plants, transportation, or heating systems. The drilling companies seek only to drive up the price of shale gas, but this legislation would marry the United States to hydraulic fracturing, even as China, India, and the countries of Europe outstrip the U.S. through advances in renewable energy;
- Promote legislation that strips oil and gas industries of subsidies and incentives for development and application of fossil fuels, and apply these same subsidies and incentives to the development and application of renewable energy in all aspects of public and private life, including all federal, state, and local infrastructure and transportation—this is the real path to future job creation;
- Promote robust legislation to encourage private industry and individuals to utilize renewable energy, and increase efficiency in areas such as power usage, insulation and green building practices.

I recognize that, as President, you must consider the demands of many constituents. The shale gas industry is promoting gas drilling by claiming that it is “clean energy,” a “job creator,” and easy revenue for property owners and the States. In reality, the exact opposite is true. All gas drilling using hydraulic fracturing results in the following:

- Poisoning of water, soil and air on a massive scale through use and disposal of chemical toxins in drilling muds, fracking fluids, and the detritus from drilling and fracking;
- Destruction of ecosystems through creation and use of drilling sites;
- Destruction and destabilization of geologic formations through drilling and fracking;
- Accelerating global warming by release of methane and other gases into the air.

The people of our country entrusted you with a great deal of responsibility to protect us from harm and lead us through necessary changes. There should be no compromise on a threat to public health and environment that results in suffering and damages on such a massive scale. You must be the people’s champion and live up to our trust. Please do not let us down.

Sincerely,

Name: _____ Date: _____
Print and Sign

Address: _____