

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

I am writing to you to urge you to take strong, decisive action to stop any further use of hydraulic fracturing for shale gas drilling in the State of New York. Hydraulic fracturing is a direct threat to public health and the future well-being of the State.

Governor Paterson left you with a partial moratorium on hydraulic fracturing, which expires on July 1, 2011, but vetoed a moratorium bill the Senate and the Assembly had passed with overwhelming support. The executive order allows continued use of hydraulic fracturing in vertical wells. As evidenced by the well-documented corruption of natural water supplies in Dimock, PA and other locations due to vertical gas drilling, this executive order is insufficient.

I ask that you:

- Issue a moratorium on all vertical drilling for shale gas now occurring in New York State;
- Withdraw the NY State Department of Environmental Conservation’s deeply flawed dSGEIS until the DEC completes a comprehensive, scientific analysis of the cumulative impacts of hydraulic fracturing, based on sound, unbiased, scientific evidence;
- Promote a robust Severance Tax—as all gas-drilling states except New York and Pennsylvania already have in place—to ensure a measure of financial recompense for the damages the gas industry has already inflicted;
- Work to attract and promote green energy industries in New York—this is the real path to future job creation.

I recognize that, as Governor, 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 State. In reality, the exact opposite is true. All gas drilling using hydraulic fracturing, whether vertical or horizontal, 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.

Allowing hydraulic fracturing to continue will ensure that millions of New Yorkers will be exposed to deadly toxins and have severe health problems and New York State will suffer permanent, irreparable environmental harm. New York’s economic base—tourism, agriculture, real estate, and business investment—will be devastated. The citizens of New York look to you to protect our health, economy and sustainable future.

Sincerely,

Name: _____ Date: _____

Print and Sign

Address: _____