



CHRIS TRUMBAUER
Councilman
Sixth District

Honorable Pamela Beidle, Chair
Anne Arundel County Delegation
Maryland House of Delegates
166 Lowe House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

October 7, 2016

Dear Chairwoman Beidle and Honorable Members of the Anne Arundel County Delegation,

Concerned by the rapidly expanding evidence of harm to our health, our economy, and our climate, we, the undersigned members of the Anne Arundel County Council, call on the members of the Anne Arundel County State delegation to support a legislative ban on hydraulic fracturing "fracking" in the 2017 general assembly.

Anne Arundel County is vulnerable to the harmful impacts of fracking, and there is no evidence that fracking can be made safe by best practices or state regulations. Only an outright ban can protect the health and economy of our county.

Anne Arundel County sits atop a basin of natural gas called the Taylorsville Basin. The basin stretches up from Virginia, running under the Potomac, across much of southern Anne Arundel, and extends to the ground below the state capitol itself in Annapolis. This basin contains billions of cubic feet of gas and underlies 29% of Anne Arundel County. Land in the Virginia portion of the Taylorsville Basin has already been leased for drilling and fracking by out of state companies.

Evidence of fracking's negative economic and health impacts continue to mount.

- Serious public health impacts for county residents: In nearby Pennsylvania and West Virginia, fracking has been linked to ground and surface water contamination, air pollution, and serious public health impacts. Citing significant public health risks, including those documented in Maryland's own health study, New York officials announced in 2014 that they would ban hydraulic fracturing in their state.
- Irreparable damage to our county's economy: Fracking could cause serious damage to the economy of our region. Heavy industrial development and truck traffic would threaten the rural economy of Anne Arundel County. And thousands of homes nationwide have already plummeted in value due to the encroachment of intrusive fracking.
- Worsening climate change: Making matters worse, a new wave of scientific evidence shows that fracked gas leaks into the atmosphere during drilling and piping, accelerating climate change. Indeed, such gas could be worse for global warming than even burning coal.

Maryland's current two-year moratorium on fracking, if allowed to expire, will leave Anne Arundel County vulnerable to these harmful impacts. The Anne Arundel County zoning code does not allow the practice of hydraulic fracturing and we will continue to uphold a county wide prohibition on fracking within county borders. We appeal to you to protect Anne Arundel County and the rest of the state of Maryland by supporting a state-wide ban on hydraulic fracturing to protect Marylanders from the

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unnecessary harms to our environmental safety and public health posed by allowing this practice in Maryland.

Sincerely,

Chris Trumbauer
Councilmember, District 6

John Grasso, Vice Chair
Councilmember, District 2

Peter Smith
Councilmember, District 1

Andrew Pruski
Councilmember, District 4

Cc: Sienna Scott