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**Frederick County**  
**Executive**

## POSITION STATEMENT

Hydraulic fracking in the State of  
Maryland

**County Position: SUPPORT**

In response to significant public input, the Frederick County Executive and the County Council request the Frederick County Delegation's consideration and support for a ban on hydraulic fracking in the State of Maryland.

County officials have received a petition with approximately 1,200 signature, over 500 emails, and numerous phone calls from Frederick County residents seeking a ban on fracking in Frederick County and statewide.

The State currently does not permit hydraulic fracking in Maryland. The current ban remains in place until October 1, 2017. The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), in consultation with an advisory commission, undertook a study for natural gas from the Marcellus Shale in Western Maryland. The MDE developed regulations regarding hydraulic fracking which are currently under review. While these regulations are not limited to or specific to Marcellus Shale, the MDE only anticipates areas of gas production (hydraulic fracking) in the Marcellus Shale in Allegany and Garrett Counties. If you refer to MDE's map of potential areas for Marcellus Shale exploration in Maryland, you can readily see that this area does not include Frederick County. The map can be found at the following link:

<http://www.mde.state.md.us/programs/Land/mining/Non%20Coal%20Mining/Documents/www.mde.state.md.us/assets/document/Marcellus%20Shapefile%20near%20surface.pdf>

There is a "finger" or strip of Culpepper Shale and Gettysburg Shale that runs through the center of Frederick County but this is not a type of shale that is targeted for gas extraction. The U. S. Geological Survey indicates that these shale deposits have not been assessed by the government or the energy industry since these shale deposits lack "tight gas" that is subject to fracking. Fracking in Frederick County appears to not be likely or viable.

Frederick County citizens have expressed concerns about the environmental impacts and risks associated with hydraulic fracking in the State of Maryland including impacts on air, water, seismicity, climate and public health. Protecting ground water and surface water is of utmost importance.

We respectfully request the Frederick County Delegation's strong advocacy and support to ban hydraulic fracking in the State of Maryland.