

Kenny Braitman
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Frostburg, MD 21532
Garrett County resident
Subject: UNFAVORABLE SB0878
Dear Senate Education, Energy, and Environment Committee Members,

I am Kenny Braitman and a resident of Garrett County. I am writing to the Committee today to voice my strong opposition to SB0878 Oil and Natural Gas - Hydraulic Fracturing - Authorization. I am asking you to vote no on this bill. Western Maryland and Garrett County, in particular, has already demonstrated to the State of Maryland that hydraulic fracturing is unwanted and considered dangerous to both human and non-human life. It removes permanently from our already limited potable water supply millions of gallons of water per well. We banned fracking in 2017 and nothing has changed to support that.

This bill was submitted without public input or public notice and likely for good reason, Senator McKay was and is not representing his constituents views and opinions on this topic.

Western Maryland has been the source of extractive industry since its beginning.

Of course, regarding hydraulic fracturing being allowed in Garrett County, our representatives know full well that we have already been through this fight, during which the majority of Garrett Countians made it crystal clear that fracking is not welcomed here or anywhere in Maryland. The majority's strong opposition to fracking was voiced in the years that led up to the decision to ban fracking in 2017. This legislative decision was supported and signed by then-Governor Larry Hogan.

I am angry that SB0878 was filed without public knowledge and an opportunity for us to express our concerns and ask questions about its filing. I do not want to see Garrett County, where the Marcellus Shale intersects with Maryland, fracked to the detriment of our economic, environmental, and public health. These aren't my only concerns.

While Maryland's budget and energy crisis are complicated and require bold solutions, allowing hydraulic fracturing in Maryland does not help either situation. In the end, fracking will cost the state more than it generates in terms of costs to local governments, lost income and the resulting loss in taxes, a more significant cost required to attend to public and environmental health consequences, and future reclamation and clean-up.

Fracking will drain our resources and ultimately contradict the state's future goals and path to economic, environmental, and public health, most severely here in Garrett County. I urge you to vote no on SB0878. Thank you.

