

My name is Nina Forsythe and I'm a resident of Frostburg in Allegany County. As someone who worked tirelessly with a coalition of concerned citizens to ban fracking in Frostburg, I am strongly opposed to Senate Bill 0878 "Oil and Natural Gas - Hydraulic Fracturing - Authorization" that Senators McKay, Hershey, and Folden have introduced to repeal the 2017 fracking ban in Maryland.

Our groundwater in Frostburg has been so contaminated by coal mining that we rely on a reservoir and springs and wells in Garrett Co., pumping it over a mountain, to supply our residents plus those of eight other communities with potable water. If fracking is allowed and fracking chemicals travel through fissures to contaminate the water supply we depend on, we are clean out of affordable options--not to mention the loss of a multi-million dollar water system.

Even with the most conscientious fracking operation, accidents happen, and we all know how profit always overrides conscientiousness, as seen in neighboring states where many violations have occurred, such as illegal dumping of fracking waste into streams. This cannot be permitted!

I urge you to not to overturn the 2017 decision by Gov. Hogan to ban unconventional drilling and hydraulic fracturing in Maryland. It's not worth the risk. You must oppose Maryland SB 0878.

Nina Forsythe