



*Mayor and Town Council
Town of Friendsville
Founded 1765*

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February 17, 2025

Subject: Opposition to SB0878

Dear Senate Education & Environment Committee,

On behalf of the Town Council and the Town of Friendsville, we strongly oppose Senate Bill 0878 "Oil and Natural Gas – Hydraulic Fracturing – Authorization", introduced by Senators McKay, Hershey, and Folden, which seeks to repeal Maryland's 2017 fracking ban.

In 2017, the Town of Friendsville enacted a local ban on fracking to protect our water supply and surrounding natural resources. However, our ban is limited to our town borders and cannot prevent contamination from occurring upstream. Our greatest concern is the Youghiogheny River, which provides drinking water for Friendsville and collects runoff from two-thirds of Garrett County's landmass. If hydraulic fracturing is permitted in Maryland, the likelihood of toxic chemicals polluting our water source is dangerously high.

The risks to our environment, health, and community far outweigh any potential benefits of fracking. We urge you to uphold Governor Hogan's 2017 decision and protect Maryland from the dangers of unconventional drilling and hydraulic fracturing. Please stand with the Town of Friendsville and oppose SB0878.

Sincerely,

Spencer R. Schlosnagle,
Mayor

SRS/wmg