

SB0878: Oil and Natural Gas - Hydraulic Fracturing - Authorization

Education, Energy, and the Environment: March 4, 2025

UNFAVORABLE

Testimony submitted by: Judy Stone, MD

I am a physician and Allegany County resident since 1983. I also have worked as a physician in areas of fracking in Pa, and have seen environmental destruction there.

I am also a senior contributor to Forbes, a previous medical journalist for Medscape, and had an Op-Ed in the [Washington Post](#) on 3/14/17 opposing fracking in Maryland.

Because of these professional experiences as well as having a home relying on well water, I have done considerable research on the issue. I have written detailed, referenced articles about the health risks of fracking on Forbes:

<http://bit.ly/2l20WYe> To Frack Or Not To Frack? Will Maryland Legislators Place Constituents' Health At Risk?

<http://bit.ly/2lIY5Cr> Fracking Is Dangerous To Your Health -- Here's Why

<http://bit.ly/2kXgmNk> Fracking And What New EPA Means For Your Health

In brief, my concerns relate to the hundreds of peer-reviewed studies confirming well-documented hazards from fracking, including respiratory problems, premature babies and risks to pregnancies, sleep deprivation (linked to diabetes, hypertension, obesity, and depression, as well as increased accidents).

The Maryland Public Health Association, the Maryland Nurses Association, the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the Maryland State Medical Society, all called for a ban, as did many health professionals.

Further, the Pennsylvania experience recently reported shows that we cannot rely on the EPA and oversight or regulations to protect us. They did not do proper testing of water and hid about 9000 complaints! It will be worse now with the EPA being dismantled by Trump.

The touted increase in jobs will largely go to skilled out-of-state drillers, not locals, and will be transient, as it was in Pennsylvania or North Dakota. Affected communities had an increase in violence, substance abuse, and accidents, resulting in strains on local police, emergency response teams, and hospitals.

If you drive in W. Maryland in the winter, you know that the roads are narrow, and windy, and that there is often fog or blowing snow, making travel treacherous. To add heavy truck traffic—especially if they are carrying toxic chemicals—is a recipe for disaster. Think of the school buses and add thousands of trucks on icy roads...

Also, fracking is a risk to the livelihood of the farmers and to the tourism industry, which is rapidly growing. Maryland should be focusing on improving tourism and renewable energy (as solar), rather than risking all of our health for the short-term monetary gain of a few people. Tourism and fracking are incompatible. Tourism is sustainable and growing, and is our future.

Based on this extensive research, as well as widespread opposition to fracking in Maryland residents, I urge the Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee to **OPPOSE SB0878**, which would undo the state's ban on fracking. We can't afford the risks of fracking to our health, our water, or the environment. It is unnecessary and unwise. We must keep the fracking ban in Maryland.

Respectfully,

Judy Stone, MD

Cumberland, MD 21502-1066

drjudystone@gmail.com