

Committee: Education, Energy and the Environment
Testimony on: SB0878 Oil and Natural Gas – Hydraulic Fracturing - Authorization
Submitting: Deborah A. Cohn
Position: Opposing
Hearing Date: February 22, 2025

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan and Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing my testimony today opposing SB0878. I have resided in Maryland since 1986, and most of my descendants reside in Maryland. I write to you with them in mind.

Maryland, in an overwhelming vote, permanently banned hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, in Maryland in 2017 and for good reason. It can destabilize geological formations increasing seismic risks. Toxic chemicals, including the known carcinogens benzene, xylene and toluene, are included in the fracking solution, a significant amount of which comes back to the surface loaded with heavy metals and radioactive materials. These toxic chemicals risk leaching into our drinking water. Fracking communities often have higher rates of birth defects and other adverse birth outcomes.

We do not need to reintroduce fracking into Maryland. We have no shortage of oil and gas in our country, and producing more in Maryland does nothing to address electricity reliability and affordability.

For these reasons I strongly oppose SB0878 and urge an UNFAVORABLE report in Committee.

Thank you.