



SB0878- UNFAVORABLE

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**Unfavorable- SB0878 – Oil and Natural Gas
Hydraulic Fracturing Authorization**
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
February 27, 2025

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee:

My name is Sonia Demiray. I am the Executive Director of the Climate Communications Coalition, a member of the Mid-Atlantic Justice Coalition, and of the Maryland Climate Justice Wing. The Climate Communications Coalition strongly opposes SB0878.

The proposed bill would open Maryland to the dangerous and polluting practice of hydraulic fracturing, a.k.a. “fracking.” The practice of fracking is dangerous because it:

- 1) Contaminates the water since it uses toxic chemicals in the high pressured fluid it injects in the ground to fracture the rock and this can seep into groundwater. Many fracking companies do not disclose all the chemicals they use.
- 2) Uses enormous amounts of water, straining already short water supplies.
- 3) Contaminates the air with methane, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and particulate matter, which can contribute to respiratory issues and to climate change.
- 4) Induces seismicity – it creates small earthquakes which can cause structural damage in nearby areas.
- 5) Destroys natural habitats and disturbs wildlife through water, air, and noise pollution (not to mention earthquakes.)
- 6) Is linked to respiratory problems, headaches, and reproductive complications among communities located close to these sites.

Let us not open the door to more environmental mayhem.

We urge an unfavorable report on SB0878.

Thank you.

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