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2/25/2025

Maryland General Assembly
Particularly the sponsors of SB0878

Good morning,

My wife, Linda and I, have lived in Garrett County since retiring in 2015. Both of us have been lifelong Maryland citizens and we are 72 and 70 respectively. We are Republican voters generally with very few exceptions.

HOWEVER, bill SB0878 is one we oppose.

The following are our reasons:

- 1) As is documented in the Marcellus Shale Safe Drilling Initiative Study Final Report dated 12/19/2014, prepared by the Maryland Department of the Environment notes in the executive summary starting on the bottom of page 1 and continuing to page 2, "While these figures demonstrate an economic benefit, the actual effect on the economy could be mixed."

"The amount of natural gas in Western Maryland is small compared to Pennsylvania's and West Virginia's holdings, and the economic benefits, especially the jobs, are likely to last only a few years. It is not clear whether the royalty payments would go to Marylanders, because in many cases the mineral rights were severed from the surface rights decades ago. Resource extraction typically operates on a "boom and bust" cycle, and jurisdictions that depend heavily on such industries often fail to diversify their economies, making them especially vulnerable when that industry leaves."

"The economy of Garrett County, more so than Allegany County, is dependent on tourism and outdoor recreation, which could suffer during the active phases of gas development, even if no accidents or incidents occur. A large portion of Garrett County's revenue comes from real estate taxes on the land around Deep Creek Lake, and studies have shown that property values can decline sharply if drilling occurs nearby."

While dollar figures have changed since 2014 for both the gas play in Md. and our real estate values, we do not believe the issues have changed and the risk does not warrant the effort.

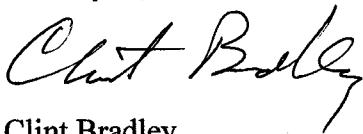
- 2) As is documented in the same report on page 5, "There are two shale formations in Western Maryland that could produce oil, wet gas and dry gas: the Marcellus and the deeper Utica. Although these formations have not been explored in Maryland, the portions of the Marcellus Shale in Garrett County and western Allegany County are thought to contain dry gas, while the portions of the Utica in Maryland are thought to be over-mature."

What this means is that it is a marginal play. President Trump in this second administration is opening up both gas and oil production. Many other areas would be more profitable and what this means is that the major companies would go elsewhere leaving Md. and our area subject to less reliable producers.

- 3) **When production by fracking in our area was first discussed before former Governor Hogan and the legislature banned it, we understood that drilling was subject to a setback from the affected water source, not from residences. Our house is up from the lake in the Monte Vista neighborhood, but if a drilling site was put behind it, the distance from our house would not be that far to avoid the impact from trucks, and around the clock production impact. We would not want to live near such a site.**

So, in conclusion, we oppose SB0878 and urge all lawmakers in Md. to continue to oppose it.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Clint Bradley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Clint" and last name "Bradley" clearly distinguishable.

Clint Bradley