

Testimony: SB0878 - Oil and Natural Gas - Hydraulic Fracturing - Authorization  
Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment  
Hearing Date: March 6, 2025 (rescheduled from February 27, 2025)  
Position: OPPOSE

Dear Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee,

I am a resident of Garrett County and ask you in the strongest terms to vote NO on SB0878.

I and my fellow county and state residents fought hard to ban fracking in 2017. The many reasons that it didn't make sense then, still exist now. Fracking poses grave risks to our water, which cascades into detrimental effects on the rest of the environment. The Maryland county most affected by fracking would be mine, Garrett County. Fracking has the potential to ruin our private wells and kill the tourism and farming driven economy.

I support Maryland's clean energy goals, but fracking is not the answer to our current energy challenges. Some consider fracked gas power generation to be clean, but fracking has proven to be the opposite and a cause of environmental destruction. Pennsylvania has already paid the price. Don't let Maryland be led wrongly down the same path.

We purchased our Garrett County property in 2007 and have stayed because we thought we were protected by the fracking ban. We have chosen not to live or own property in Pennsylvania because they allow it and, similarly, we would not live in West Virginia because of its poor track record of environmental protections. We chose Maryland and have stayed in Maryland because it has a track record of thoughtful and fact-based policy and law.

You have a moral and legal responsibility to protect the natural resources of Maryland. I am afraid that some public officials are just being tempted by promises of a quick buck. Fracking lobbyists and public relation specialists are always going to overestimate job creation and power production and underestimate environmental degradation. Fracking companies are in it for the profit. They do not care about clean energy, they do not care about global warming, they do not care about our environment, they do not care about Garrett County's economy, and they do not care about Marylanders' quality of life.

Our public officials are supposed to protect the people. We depend on you to carefully weigh all of the issues and make a reasoned decision. The fracking issue was already debated and settled. SB0878 has been put forth without any new debate or public discussion. The citizens, whose lives could be dramatically altered if the fracking ban were lifted, have had a limited chance to express their opinions and raise important issues. I am very concerned that this bill was even introduced and am worried that our officials are being led astray by false narratives. Fracking has very serious environmental effects, even when done in a "safe" manner. I urge you to learn about the land and lives ruined in Pennsylvania from fracking.

Once you contaminate the water in a rural county dependent on individual wells, you can not get it back. It is hard for folks who have never depended on a well to understand. There is no municipal water system. There are no pipes flowing to your house. The only water you have is what you pump from your ground into your house. Imagine that your well water is poisoned from fracking on another property. You didn't allow it, but others did. You find yourself with poisoned water coming out of your taps. Imagine that a truck has to deliver every drop of water you need for daily drinking, cooking, cleaning, your garden, and your animals. Try living without clean water flowing from your tap for just one day and you might start to understand. Try living that way for weeks and you will understand that it simply can't be done. We cannot live without clean water coming out of our wells. We cannot live on trucked-in water. Contaminated water cannot be fixed with money, paid by industry, the state, or homeowners. Contaminated water is an irreparable disaster.

Please consider these issues carefully. The decisions you make now will have a far reaching impact on the future.

Please vote NO on SB0878.

Respectfully submitted,  
Christine Campe-Price  
Grantsville, MD