

March 8, 2012

Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver  
LOB 932  
Albany, NY 12248

cc: Assembly member Robert Sweeney  
Assembly member Richard Gottfried

Dear Assembly Speaker Silver,

We applaud your efforts to include a Health Impact Assessment on gas exploration and production using high-volume, slick water, horizontal hydraulic fracturing in the New York State Assembly's 2012-2013 budget resolution. The New York State Assembly has been a leader on this issue of the public health impacts related to high-volume hydraulic fracturing as evidenced by Assembly members Sweeney and Gottfried's joint hearing on this matter in May 2011. You have our full public support in advancing this item in the 2012-2013 NYS budget.

Throughout the past few years, the medical community across New York has become increasingly concerned about the health impacts of hydraulic fracturing. Medical professionals have joined together with the environmental community to raise their concerns. In October 2011, 250 physicians and medical professionals wrote a letter to Governor Cuomo calling for a comprehensive public health impact assessment <http://www.psehealthyenergy.org/resources/view/198813>. On December 10th, Dr. Sandra Steingraber, Lois Gibbs and Fran Drescher echoed that call with nineteen NY-based cancer advocacy groups in a letter addressed to Governor Cuomo asking for the same assessment <http://www.psehealthyenergy.org/resources/view/198831>.

Despite these attempts to communicate serious concerns that the medical community has made, the state completely omitted an assessment of potential health impacts in the rDSGEIS. This is notwithstanding the fact that gas exploration and production using high-volume, slick water, horizontal hydraulic fracturing across the country has been associated with a range of health impacts ranging from loss of smell, memory problems, and headaches to a number of serious respiratory illnesses and cancers.

In closing, as the New York State Assembly takes a stand for New Yorkers' public health and safety, those in the federal government are also asking for more research to be done on the health impacts of fracking including Christopher Portier, the Director of the National Center for Environmental Health at the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, Georgia. As one of the most respected researchers on health issues, Portier stated, "More research is needed for us to understand public health impacts from natural gas drilling and new gas drilling technologies." To go forward in New York without a proper health impact assessment is therefore unacceptable. We respectfully request that an appropriation of \$300,000 be made for this study.

Thank you again for your courageous leadership in protecting the public health and safety of New Yorkers.

Sincerely,

Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., President, Waterkeeper Alliance  
Mark Ruffalo, Actor/Director  
Sandra Steingraber, Ph.D. Distinguished Scholar in Residence, Ithaca College  
Richard Schrader, Legislative Director, Natural Resources Defense Council  
Adam Law, MD  
Larysa Dyrszka MD  
David Gould, MD, MBA  
Eric London, MD  
Dr. William Klepack  
Paul Bermanzohn, MD  
Michelle Bamberger, MS, DVM  
Robert E. Oswald, Ph.D.  
Elie Ward, American Academy of Pediatrics District II, NYS  
Katherine Nadeau, Water & Natural Resources Program Director, Environmental Advocates of New York  
Roger Downs, Legislative Director, Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter  
Sarah Eckel, Legislative & Policy Director, Citizens Campaign for the Environment  
Paul Gallay, President, Riverkeeper, Inc.  
Josh Fox, Director, Gasland  
Wes Gillingham, Program Director, Catskill Mountainkeeper  
Julia Walsh, Campaign Director, Frack Action  
Nadia Steinzor, Marcellus Shale Regional Organizer, Earthworks  
Eric Weltman, Senior Organizer, Food & Water Watch  
Tracy Carluccio, Deputy Director, Delaware Riverkeeper Network  
Thomas B. Wilinsky, Catskill Citizens for Safe Energy  
Barbara Arrindell, Director, Damascus Citizens for Sustainability  
Patti Wood, Executive Director, Grassroots Environmental Education  
Claire Sandberg, Executive Director, Water Defense  
David Braun, President, United for Action  
Assemblyman William Colton  
Stephanie Low, Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter, Gas Drilling Task Force, National Hydrofracking Team,  
NYH2O Chair, Legislative/Political Committee  
Susan Van Dolsen, Co-Organizer of Westchester for Change  
Robert Nied, Co-Director, Schoharie Valley Watch  
Tanyette Colon, Mothers United for Sustainable Technologies  
Dr. Paul Torrisi President, Skaneateles Lake Association  
Nicole A. Dillingham, President Board of Directors, Otsego 2000  
Sheila Cohen, Gas Drilling Awareness for Cortland County  
Buck Moorhead, NYH2O  
Chris Tate, Board of Directors, Finger Lakes CleanWaters Initiative, Inc.  
Wendy Robinson, Sullivan Area Citizens for Responsible Energy Development  
Adrian Kuzminski, Sustainable Otsego  
Pete Comstock, Coordinator, Lumberland Concerned Citizens  
Suzannah Gidden, Director, Croton Watershed Clean Water Coalition  
Kenneth Jaffe, MD  
Carol Roig, Co-Founder, Highland Concerned Citizens  
Jack Ramsden, Steering Committee, Neighbors of the Onondaga Nation