



Across the country, fracking operations have contaminated water, put residents' health at risk, and turned rural landscapes into industrial zones. Moreover, a growing number of scientific studies are now linking fracking pollution to a wide range of health risks including cancer.

In the face of these grave impacts, communities continue to seek to halt or substantially limit fracking within their borders. Yet the oil and gas industry insists that this basic principle of local control should not apply to its operations, and state legislatures and state courts have too often agreed.

If fracking operations are going to occur at all, these local leaders believe communities should have the right to regulate or reject them — including not only well pads but also waste pits, compressor stations, and all the infrastructure of dirty drilling— within their borders.

More than 250 mayors, county commissioners, city councilors, state legislators and other local elected officials from six states – California, Colorado, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, and Texas—have signed letters and statements, below, calling for local control of fracking.

OHIO

Dear Governor Kasich,

As local elected officials, we are deeply concerned about the significant and growing threat hydraulic fracturing poses to our health and environment. We urge you to stand up for the right of all communities to determine whether, where, and how this dirty drilling is conducted within their own borders.

Across our state, fracking operations have contaminated water, put residents' health at risk, and turned rural landscapes into industrial zones. Here in Ohio, state data shows that fracking operations produced 30 million gallons of toxic wastewater in 2012 alone, all of which is exempted from our nation's bedrock wastewater and drinking water laws.

Moreover, a growing number of scientific studies are now linking toxic fracking pollution with a wide range of health risks including cancer. Fracking also imposes particular burdens on local communities, from strained services to ruined roads. As with other extractive booms, the arrival and expansion of fracking operations has been correlated with a wide range of social problems, including increases in domestic violence, drug use, traffic accidents, and civil disturbances. Other local impacts— such as water and soil contamination and reduced property values— are likely to persist long after the boom is gone, and we will be the ones left to pick up the pieces.

In the face of these grave impacts, and despite the Ohio Supreme Court's recent ruling, communities continue to seek to halt or substantially limit fracking within their borders. The notion that our communities have the right to bar or limit activities which threaten public health or the quality of life of their residents has a long tradition in Ohio law. This principle is the basis of common health ordinances and local land use rules, including zoning, which often involve trade-offs with property rights and other interests. Yet the oil and gas industry has the audacity to insist that this basic principle of local control should not apply to its operations.

Across Ohio, fracking is expanding at a frenzied pace, into our backyards and farmlands, next door to our hospitals and schools, and into the pristine and wild acres that provide drinking water and recreational opportunities for Ohioans.

In light of the foregoing, we believe that all communities in Ohio should have the right to reject fracking operations— including not only well pads but also waste pits, compressor stations, and all the infrastructure of dirty drilling—

within their borders. We urge you to declare your clear support for this right of local control here in Ohio.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Paul Wiehl Mayor, Athens
The Honorable Gregory Zilka Mayor, Avon Lake
The Honorable Dennis Wilcox Mayor, Cleveland Heights
The Honorable Michael Summers Mayor, Lakewood
The Honorable Susan Renda Mayor, Moreland Hills Village
The Honorable Trevor Elkins Mayor, Newburgh Heights Village
The Honorable Robert Stefanik Mayor, North Royalton
The Honorable David Mann Vice Mayor, Cincinnati
The Honorable Constance Barsky Vice Mayor, Granville
The Honorable Tom Sawyer Ohio Senator, D-Akron
The Honorable Cecil Thomas Ohio Senator, D-Cincinnati
The Honorable Charleta Tavares Ohio Senator, D-Columbus

The Honorable Kenny Yuko Ohio Senator, D-Richmond Heights
The Honorable Nickie Antonio Ohio Representative, D-Lakewood
The Honorable Lori Kokoski County Commission President, Lorain County
The Honorable Charles Adkins County Commissioner, Athens County
The Honorable Chris Chmiel County Commissioner, Athens County
The Honorable Lenny Eliason County Commissioner, Athens County
The Honorable Sunny Simon County Council Member, Cuyahoga County
The Honorable Dale Miller County Council Member, Cuyahoga County
The Honorable Lillian Moore Council President, Highland Hills

The Honorable Steve Richman Council President, Moreland Hills Village
The Honorable Larry Antoskiewicz Council President, North Royalton
The Honorable Sean Brennan Council President, Parma
The Honorable Eloise Henry Council President, Richmond Heights
The Honorable Steven Herron Council President, Vermilion
The Honorable Dennis Recker Council President, Whitehouse
The Honorable Patricia DeBerry Council President Pro Tem, Highland Hills
The Honorable Joseph Mercurio Council President Pro Tem, Mayfield Heights
The Honorable Rich Swirsky Council Member, Akron
The Honorable Bob Hoch Council Member, Akron
The Honorable Marilyn Keith Council Member, Akron

The Honorable
Suzanne Greif Council
Member, Amesville
The Honorable Marcia
Burchby Council
Member, Amesville
The Honorable Joe
Miller Council
Member, Amherst
The Honorable
Christine Fahl Council
Member, Athens
The Honorable
Christine Knisely
Council Member,
Athens
The Honorable
Jennifer Cochran
Council Member,
Athens
The Honorable Jeffrey
Risner Council
Member, Athens
The Honorable Kent
Butler Council
Member, Athens
The Honorable Mike
Canterbury Council
Member, Athens
The Honorable
Michele Papai Council
Member, Athens
The Honorable Steve
Patterson Council
Member, Athens
The Honorable Walter
Genutis Council
Member, Bedford
The Honorable Nick
Haschka Council
Member, Berea
The Honorable Daniel
Gordon Council

Member, Bowling
Green
The Honorable John
Zanfardino Council
Member, Bowling
Green
The Honorable George
Stelmaschuk Council
Member, Broadview
Heights
The Honorable Glenn
Goodwin Council
Member, Broadview
Heights
The Honorable
Jennifer Mahnic
Council Member,
Broadview Heights
The Honorable James
Giomini Council
Member, Broadview
Heights
The Honorable Brian
Wolf Council Member,
Broadview Heights
The Honorable Brian
Ousley Council
Member, Brunswick
The Honorable Patricia
Hanek Council
Member, Brunswick
The Honorable
Vincent Carl Council
Member, Brunswick
The Honorable
Richard Hart Council
Member, Canton
The Honorable Frank
Morris Council
Member, Canton
The Honorable Chris
Seelbach Council
Member, Cincinnati

The Honorable P.G.
Sittenfeld Council
Member, Cincinnati
The Honorable
Wendell Young
Council Member,
Cincinnati
The Honorable Yvette
Simpson Council
Member, Cincinnati
The Honorable Brian
Cummins Council
Member, Cleveland
The Honorable Martin
Keane Council
Member, Cleveland
The Honorable
Kenneth Johnson
Council Member,
Cleveland
The Honorable
Michael Polensek
Council Member,
Cleveland
The Honorable Jeff
Coryell Council
Member, Cleveland
Heights
The Honorable
Madeline Scarniench
Council Member,
Euclid
The Honorable
Michelle Lerner
Council Member,
Granville
The Honorable Jeff
Crabill Council
Member, Heath
The Honorable
Barbara Spearman
Council Member,
Highland Hills

The Honorable Jean
Abernathy-Smith
Council Member,
Highland Hills
The Honorable Nicole
Young Council
Member, Highland
Hills
The Honorable Rev.
Leah Lewis Council
Member, Highland
Hills
The Honorable
Melissa Long Council
Member, Kent
The Honorable Sam
O'Leary Council
Member, Lakewood
The Honorable Cindy
Marx Council Member,
Lakewood
The Honorable
Thomas Bullock
Council Member,
Lakewood
The Honorable Frank
DeTillio Council
Member, Lorain
The Honorable Joseph
Koziura Council
Member, Lorain
The Honorable Eddie
Edwards Council
Member, Lorain
The Honorable Ron
Jackson Council
Member, Maple
Heights
The Honorable
Richard Trojanski
Council Member,
Maple Heights

The Honorable Susan
Sabetta Council
Member, Mayfield
Heights
The Honorable Mark
Kolesar Council
Member, Medina
The Honorable
Raymond Jarrett
Council Member,
Medina Township
The Honorable Ken
DeMichael Council
Member, Medina
Township
The Honorable Bill
Ostmann Council
Member, Medina
Township
The Honorable Daniel
Fritz Council Member,
Moreland Hills Village
The Honorable Gary
Sherck Council
Member, Moreland
Hills Village
The Honorable Ted
Buczek Council
Member, Moreland
Hills Village
The Honorable Eddie
Van Bibber Council
Member, Nelsonville
The Honorable Carol
Floyd Council
Member, Newark
The Honorable Jeremy
Blake Council
Member, Newark
The Honorable Phillip
Beer Council Member,
Newton Falls

The Honorable Daniel
Langshaw Council
Member, North
Royalton
The Honorable Paul
Marnecheck Council
Member, North
Royalton
The Honorable Sarah
Allan Council Member,
Norwood
The Honorable Chris
Callender Council
Member, Oakwood
Village
The Honorable
Elizabeth Meadows
Council Member,
Oberlin
The Honorable Kristin
Peterson Council
Member, Oberlin
The Honorable
Lawrence Napoli
Council Member,
Parma
The Honorable Brian
Brochetti Council
Member, Parma
The Honorable Sharon
Spencer Council
Member, Ravenna
The Honorable Frank
Lentine Council
Member, Richmond
Heights
The Honorable
Michele Ernst Council
Member, Seven Hills
The Honorable Carol
Carter Council
Member, Seville

The Honorable Bill
Wtulich, Jr. Council
Member, Sheffield
Lake

The Honorable Paul
Dzyak Council
Member, Swanton

The Honorable Jim
O'Reilly Council
Member, Wyoming

The Honorable
Marianne MacQueen
Council Member,
Yellow Springs

The Honorable Orrin
Leimbach Trustee,
Brownhelm Township

NORTH CAROLINA

Dear Governor McCrory,

As elected officials, we are deeply concerned about the significant and growing threat hydraulic fracturing poses to our health and environment. We urge you to stand up for the right of all communities to determine whether, where, and how this dirty drilling is conducted within their own borders.

Across the country, fracking operations have contaminated water, put residents' health at risk, and turned rural landscapes into industrial zones. There have been more than one thousand documented cases of drinking water contamination across the country. Moreover, a growing number of scientific studies are now linking toxic fracking pollution with a wide range of health risks including cancer.

In addition, fracking also imposes particular burdens on local communities, from strained services to ruined roads. As with other extractive booms, the arrival and expansion of fracking operations has been correlated with a wide range of social problems, including increases in domestic violence, drug use, traffic accidents, and civil disturbances. Other local impacts— such as water and soil contamination and reduced property values— are likely to persist long after the boom is gone, and we will be the ones left to pick up the pieces.

In the face of these grave impacts, and with our moratorium now lifted, it is no surprise that a growing number of communities are moving to halt or substantially limit fracking within their borders. The notion that our communities have the right to bar or limit activities which threaten public health or the quality of life of their residents has a long tradition in North Carolina's law. This principle is the basis of common health ordinances and local land use rules, including zoning, which often involve trade-offs with property rights and other interests. Yet the oil and gas industry has the audacity to insist that this basic principle of local control should not apply to its operations.

With fracking now legal in our state, it may be coming into our backyards and farmlands, next door to our hospitals and schools, and into the pristine and wild acres that provide drinking water and recreational opportunities for North Carolinians. In light of the foregoing, we believe that all communities in North Carolina should have the right to reject fracking operations— including not only well pads but also waste pits, compressor stations, and all the infrastructure of dirty drilling— within their borders. We urge you to declare your clear support for this right of local control here in North Carolina.

Sincerely,

Alamance County

The Honorable Robert
Byrd
County Commissioner

Buncombe County

The Honorable Cecil Bothwell
Councilman
Asheville

The Honorable Gwen Wisler
Councilwoman
Asheville

The Honorable Marc Hunt
Vice Mayor
Ashville

The Honorable Dottie Sherrill
Mayor
Weaverville

The Honorable Brownie
Newman
Commissioner

The Honorable David Gantt
Chairman

The Honorable Holly Jones
County Commissioner

Cabarrus County

Ella Mae Small
Council Member
Concord

Chatham County

The Honorable Diana Hales
Commissioner

Craven County

The Honorable Luci Avery
Council Member
River Bend

Brunswick County

The Honorable Terry Johnson
Council Member
Sunset Beach

Dare County

The Honorable Monica Thibodeau
Council Member
Duck

The Honorable Nancy Caviness
Council Member
Duck

The Honorable Sheila Davies
Mayor
Kill Devil Hills

Durham County

The Honorable Bill Bell
Mayor
Durham

The Honorable Diane Catotti
Councilor
Durham

The Honorable Don Moffitt
Councilor
Durham

The Honorable Michael Page
Chairman
Durham

The Honorable Steve Schewel
Councilor
Durham

The Honorable Wendy Jacobs
Commissioner
Durham

Forsyth County

The Honorable Denise Adams
Council Member
Winston-Salem

Gaston County

The Honorable Todd
Pierceall
Council Member
Gastonia

Granville County

The Honorable Thomas Lane
Mayor
Butner

The Honorable Bill McKellar
Councilman
Butner

The Honorable Thomas Lane
Mayor
Granville

The Honorable Robert
Williford
Commissioner
Oxford

Guilford County

The Honorable Pricey
Harrison
Representative
Greensboro

The Honorable Cynthia
Davis
Council Member
High Point

The Honorable Jeffery
Golden
Council Member
High Point

Iredell County

The Honorable Jarrod Phifer
Council Member
Statesville

The Honorable George
Cianciolo

Jackson County

The Honorable Clark Corwin
Council Member
Forest Hills

Johnston County

The Honorable Charles Williams
Council Member
Smithfield

Mecklenburg County

The Honorable LaWana Mayfield
Councilwoman
Charlotte

The Honorable Ruby
Jones School Board
Member Charlotte

The Honorable John Woods
Mayor
Davidson

Orange County

The Honorable Lydia Lavelle
Mayor
Carrboro

The Honorable Bethany Chaney
Alderman
Carrboro
The Honorable Damon Seils
Alderman
Carrboro

The Honorable Mark Kleinschmidt
Mayor
Chapel Hill

The Honorable Ed Harrison
Council Member
Chapel Hill

Council Member
Chapel Hill

The Honorable Jim Ward
Council Member
Chapel Hill

The Honorable Lee Storrow
Council Member
Chapel Hill

The Honorable Maria Palmer
Council Member
Chapel Hill

The Honorable Sally Greene
Council Member
Chapel Hill

The Honorable Barry Jacobs
Commissioner

The Honorable Bernadette
Pelissier
Vice-Chairman

The Honorable Mia Day
Burroughs
Commissioner

The Honorable Mark Dorosin
Commissioner

The Honorable Renee Price
Commissioner

Pasquotank County

The Honorable Darius Horton
Councilman
Elizabeth City

The Honorable Raymond
Donnelly
Councilman
Elizabeth City

Swain County

The Honorable David Monteith
Vice Chairman

Wake County

The Honorable William Sutton

The Honorable Tony Stimatz
Councilman
Elizabeth City

The Honorable Joseph Winslow
Chairman

Pender County

The Honorable Michael Curley
Councilman
Surf City

The Honorable William Fowler
Councilman
Surf City

Pitt County

The Honorable Etsil Sinclair Mason
Mayor
Farmville

The Honorable Marion Blackburn
Council Member
Greenville

Robeson County

The Honorable Erich Hackney
Councilman
Lumberton

Rocky Mount

The Honorable Andrew Knight
Council Member
Rocky Mount

The Honorable Lois Watkins
Council Member
Rocky Mount

Mayor
Apex

The Honorable Bill Jenson
Council Member
Apex

The Honorable Lori Bush
Councilor
Cary

The Honorable TJ Cawley
Councilor
Morrisville

The Honorable Michael Schlink
Councilor
Morrisville

The Honorable Steve Rao
Councilor
Morrisville

The Honorable Eugene Weeks
Councilor
Raleigh

The Honorable Shannon Whitley
Commissioner
Rolesville

The Honorable Sig Hutchinson
Commissioner
Wake County

TEXAS

April 30, 2015

The Honorable Drew Darby
The Honorable Troy Fraser

CC: The Honorable Greg Abbott

Dear Chairmen Darby and Fraser,

As local elected officials, we are writing to you with deep concern over your bills (HB 40 and SB 1165) to preempt municipal authority over oil and gas drilling in our communities. We firmly oppose any roll back of our authority to protect the health and safety of our constituents and thus believe your bills are fundamentally flawed. We urge you to withdraw, adjust, or amend your bill to allow local governments the authority to prevent and limit impacts from fracking operations on public health, infrastructure, social services, and the environment.

In addition to the growing body of evidence around the wide range of health impacts from fracking, this form of oil and gas drilling imposes infrastructure burdens on local communities, from strained services to ruined roads. As with other extractive booms, the arrival and expansion of fracking operations has been correlated with a wide range of pressures on social services— including increases in fires, earthquakes, and traffic accidents. Other local impacts such as water and soil contamination and reduced property values are likely to persist long after the boom is gone, and we will be the ones left to pick up the pieces.

In the face of these grave impacts, and the tens of thousands of state-documented oil and gas violations each year, it is no surprise that more than 300 Texas cities have adopted ordinances to limit drilling within their borders. The notion that our communities have the right to control activities which threaten public health or the quality of life of their residents has a long tradition in Texas law. This principle is the basis of common health ordinances and local land use rules, including zoning, which often involve trade-offs with property rights and other interests. The best policy is to leave decisions over local impacts to local governments and let residents and other stakeholders influence those decisions at their local city halls.

In light of the foregoing, we believe that all communities should have the right to decide whether, where, and how fracking operations— including not only well pads but also waste pits, compressor stations, and all the infrastructure of dirty drilling— happen within their borders. We urge you withdraw your legislation and preserve the rights of cities to rein in the worst impacts of drilling.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Glenn Barham
Mayor, Wichita Falls

The Honorable Alan Brundrett
Mayor, Azle

The Honorable Robert Rivera
Council Member, Arlington

The Honorable Sarah Eckhardt
County Judge, Travis County

The Honorable Larry Vernon
Mayor, Eastland

The Honorable Mickey Parsons
Council Member, Granbury

The Honorable Philip Kingston
Council Member, Dallas

The Honorable Charles Smith,
City Commissioner, DISH

The Honorable Timothy Welch
Council Member, North Richland Hills

The Honorable Michael Smith
Council Member, Wichita Falls

The Honorable Adam Medrano
Council Member, Dallas

The Honorable Wester Draper
City Commissioner, DISH

The Honorable Veronica Escobar
County Judge, El Paso County

The Honorable Danny Marquez
Mayor, Littlefield
The Honorable Tom Halepaska
Council Member, Victoria

Local Officials of New Mexico for Local Control of Fracking

Councilor Isaac
Benton
Albuquerque City
Council

Commissioner Billy
Garrett
Dona Ana County

Commissioner Henry
Roybal
Santa Fe County

Councilor Rey
Garduño
Albuquerque City
Council

Commissioner Dr.
David Garcia
Dona Ana County

Commissioner Kathy
Holian
Santa Fe County

Commissioner Art De
La Cruz
Bern County

Councilor Olga
Pedroza
Las Cruces City
Council

Councilor Frederick
Peralta
Taos County

Commissioner Mark
Gallegos
Taos County

Local Officials of Colorado for Local Control of Fracking

Mary Dolores Young
Mayor Pro Tem
Boulder City Council

Councilmember Ross Cunniff
Fort Collins City Council

Local Officials of California for Local Control of Fracking

Councilor Tim Rood
Piedmont City Council

Councilor Esther
Sanchez
Oceanside City
Council

Councilor Rick Edge
San Juan Bautista City
Council

Councilor Michael
Barnes
Albany City Council

Councilor Rex
Richardson
Long Beach City
Council

Councilor Tara Milius
Sunnyvale City Council

Councilor Bob
Blumenfield
Los Angeles City
Council

Councilor Elizabeth
Patterson
Benicia City Council

Councilor Robb Davis
City of Davis

Councilor Rodrigo
Espinoza
Livingston City
Council

Councilor Marsha
Grilli
Milpitas City Council

Sheila Kuehl
Los Angeles County
Board of Supervisors

Councilor Jim Oddie
Alameda City Council

Councilor Richard Constantine City of Morgan Hill	City of Milpitas	Debora Fudge Vice Mayor Town of Windsor
Councilor Jerry Castanon Dixon City Council	Councilor Terry Nagel City of Burlingame	Mayor Carol Dutra- Vernaci Union City
Councilor Richard Hall Yountville City Council	Councilor Marc Berman Palo Alto City Council	Susan Gorin Sonoma County Board of Supervisors
Councilor Ian Bain Redwood City Council	Councilor Shari Horne Laguna Woods City Council	
Councilor Carmen Montano Councilor Dianne Martinez Emeryville City Council	Councilor Pauline Cutter City of San Leandro	San Francisco Board of Supervisors
Councilor Ruth Atkin Emeryville City Council	Art Brown Buena Park City Council	Carla Condon Corte Madera City Council
Councilor Lenny Siegel Mountain View City Council	Richard Murphy Los Alamitos City Council	Erin Carlstrom Santa Rosa City Council
Councilor Rod Sinks City of Cupertino	Chris Coursey Santa Rosa City Council	Julie Combs Santa Rosa City Council
Damon Connolly Marin County Board of Supervisors	Madolyn Agrimonti Sonoma City Council	Teresa Barrett Petaluma City Council
Councilor Bao Nguyen Garden Grove City Council	Katy Tang San Francisco Board of Supervisors	Angelica Amezcua Santa Ana City Council
Laurie Gallian Sonoma City Council	Bob Cox City of Cloverdale	Susan Ornelas Arcata City Council
	Mark Farrell	Tim Goodrich

City of Torrance

Ryan Coonerty
Santa Cruz County

Timothy Barrett
City of Monterey

Paul Krekorian
City of Los Angeles

Gary Wysocky
Santa Rosa City
Council

John Ashbaugh

City of San Luis
Obispo

Richelle Noroyan
City of Santa Cruz

Tom Lane
City of Santa Cruz