

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 Michael Summers
Mayor, Lakewood

The Honorable Gregory Zilka
Mayor, Avon Lake

The Honorable Susan Renda
Mayor, Moreland Hills Village

The Honorable Dennis Wilcox
Mayor, Cleveland Heights

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