

Ban Fracking in Prince George's County

Concerned by the rapidly expanding evidence of harm to our health, our economy, and our climate, we, the undersigned organizations, community leaders, faith leaders, and businesses, call for a ban on high-volume hydraulic fracturing, “fracking,” in Prince George’s County.

Prince George’s County sits atop a basin of natural gas called the Taylorsville Basin. The basin stretches up from Virginia, running under the Potomac, across much of southern Prince George’s to the outskirts of Upper Marlboro, and extends to the ground below the state capitol itself in Annapolis. This basin contains millions of cubic feet of gas and underlies 31 percent of Prince George’s County. Land in the Virginia portion of the Taylorsville Basin has already been leased for drilling and fracking by out-of-state companies.

Evidence of fracking’s negative economic and health impacts continue to mount.

- **Serious public health impacts for county residents:** In nearby Pennsylvania and West Virginia, fracking has been linked to ground and surface water contamination, air pollution, and serious public health impacts. Citing significant public health risks, including those documented in Maryland’s own health study, New York officials announced in 2014 that they would ban hydraulic fracturing in their state.

- **Irreparable damage to our county’s economy:** Fracking could cause serious damage to the economy of our region. Heavy industrial development and truck traffic would threaten the rural economy of Southern Prince George’s County and its growing ecotourism industry. And thousands of homes nationwide have already plummeted in value due to the encroachment of intrusive fracking.

- **Worsening climate change:** Making matters worse, a new wave of scientific evidence shows that fracked gas leaks into the atmosphere during drilling and piping, accelerating climate change. Indeed, such gas could be WORSE for global warming than even burning coal.

Maryland’s current two-year moratorium on fracking, if allowed to expire, would leave Prince George’s County vulnerable to these harmful impacts, and there is no evidence that fracking can be made safe by best practices or state regulations. Only an outright ban can protect the health and economy of our county.

We urge the Prince George’s County Council to pass a ban on hydraulic fracturing.

Adelphi Friends Meeting

Berkshire Civic Association

Anacostia Watershed Society

Chesapeake Climate Action Network

Ancestral Knowledge

Chesapeake Education, Arts and Research Society

Asbury U.M. Church

Clean Water Action

Beaverdam Creek Watershed Watch Group

Community Research

Creeks Communities Council

Energy Justice Network

Food & Water Watch

Greater Accokeek Civic Association

Greater Baden-Aquasco Citizens Association

Greenbelt Climate Action Network

Interfaith Power & Light (DC.MD.NoVA)

Madison Productions Inc.

Maryland United for Peace and Justice

Mattawoman Watershed Society

P.A. Bowen Farmstead

Patuxent Riverkeeper

Prince George's Sierra Club Group

Prince George's Peace & Justice Coalition

The Accokeek, Mattawoman, Piscataway

*The Green Team of Paint Branch Unitarian
Universalists Church*

The Moyaone Association

*University of Maryland Student Government
Association*