

## **LETTER IN SUPPORT of a Moratorium on Fracking>>>>>**

Dear Members of the Maryland General Assembly:

We, the undersigned owners of businesses in Garrett and Allegany counties express support for the Protect Our Health and Communities Act (HB 449 and SB 409) presently being considered.

The concern shared by over 100 Western Maryland businesses, owned jointly or partially by those listed below and accounting for approximately 500 employees, is there is no evidence that shale gas development (“fracking”) can be regulated effectively. Further, fracking should be allowed by law in Maryland only if the technology is shown to be safe. Until that time, gas-drilling poses unacceptable risks to the health of our families, neighbors, employees, visitors, and environment. If allowed, we fear it will undermine a Deep Creek Lake-area economy in which tourism historically has figured prominently — and dominated it for a generation.

We recognize the need for additional job opportunities for our citizens, and look forward to working with local elected leaders on such initiatives. But fracking is not the solution. That much we know.

For us, respect for our mountain streams and forests is not empty “environmentalism,” though to be sure, we are blessed to live and work in a place with clean water and mountain air. Instead, we recognize these qualities are the principal reasons so many visitors come to Deep Creek — literally making our businesses possible: our rugged, forested slopes and rural by-ways are as critical to our livelihoods as Chesapeake Bay to other Marylanders.

Shale gas represents an industrialization process with likely health impacts — as shown by some 96 percent of the fracking health studies to emerge since 2013 — that will bring unwelcome and, we worry, catastrophic effects on perceptions about Mountain Maryland as a vacation destination. In a county where more than half the jobs and two-thirds of the tax base are derived from tourism-related real estate and business activity — which we own and operate — the impacts could be sudden and dramatic.

These very effects combined with the current uncertain regulatory environment, as noted by the National Board of Realtors, are why the Garrett County Board of Realtors supports suspension of drilling within the DCL watershed.

We strongly urge the General Assembly to approve the Protect Our Health and Communities Act and ask that Gov. Hogan sign it into law during the current legislative session.

### **Signatories:**

1. ABPH Art, McHenry, MD, Annie Simcoe
2. Ace Quick Lube, Oakland, MD, Dr. Dona Alvarez
3. Ace's Run Restaurant & Pub, McHenry, MD, Brenda McDonnell
4. Agape Farm, McHenry, MD, Dawn Beitzel
5. All-Earth Eco Tours, Friendsville, MD, Crede Calhoun
6. Allegany Hearing & Balance, LaVale, MD, Jana Brown
7. Allegany Hearing & Balance, Oakland, MD, Jana Brown
8. Andrea Carla Tesar LMT, Oakland, MD, Carla Tesar
9. Animal Crackers Pet Grooming, Accident, MD, Patrice Wells
10. Archies Barbeque, McHenry, MD, Deborah Archer
11. Backbone Food Farm, Oakland, MD, Katharine Dubansky
12. Barbara Pritts Realtor, McHenry, MD, Barbara Pritts
13. Beitzel Marketing & Consulting, McHenry, Dawn Beitzel
14. Blamble Electric LLC, Oakland, MD, Keith Blamble
15. Blue Moon Rising, McHenry, MD, Lisa Jan
16. Blue Sky Ventures, Oakland, MD, Susan Thomas
17. Bounds Services, Oakland, MD, Bob Bounds
18. Brenda's Pizzeria, McHenry, MD, Brenda McDonnell
19. Brian Homberg Realtor, McHenry, MD, Brian Homberg
20. [Brianoxford.com](http://Brianoxford.com), McHenry, MD, Brian Oxford
21. Cedar Rock Farm, Mount Savage, MD, Samuel White
22. CLS Ventures Inc., Friendsville, MD, Linda Carr
23. Coldwell Banker Deep Creek Realty, McHenry, MD, Patrick Kane
24. DCL Hot Tubs, McHenry, Chad Taylor
25. DCR Rentals, McHenry, MD, Patrick Kane
26. Deep Creek Cellars, Friendsville, MD, Nadine Grabania
27. Deep Creek Fitness, Oakland, MD, Kathy Moran
28. Deep Creek Lanes LLC, Oakland, MD, Tiffany Blackden
29. Deep Creek Lavender, Accident, MD, Anne Davidson
30. Deep Creek School of Real Estate, McHenry, MD, Patrick Kane
31. Deep Creek Vacation Rentals, McHenry, MD, Patrick Kane
32. Dental Health Group, Oakland, MD, Bill Yant
33. Eagle Rock Construction, Oakland, MD, Eric Robison
34. Eloqui, Inc., Mt. Lake Park, MD, Mark Stutzman
35. Eye for Art Gallery & Studio, Oakland, MD, Angela Sincell

36. Firefly Farms, Accident, MD, Mike Koch
37. Fox Hardware Store, Friendsville, MD, Lisa Cole
38. Fratz True Value, Accident, MD, Josh Fratz
39. Garrett County Orthopedics, Oakland, MD, Dr. Dona Alvarez
40. Garrett Events, Swanton, MD, Kyle Yost
41. Gary Yoder Bird Sculptor, Grantsville, MD, Gary Yoder
42. Good Timber Bed & Breakfast, McHenry, MD, Michael Bell
43. GTS Therapeutics LLC, Swanton, MD, Gary Blackden
44. Heritage Resources LLC, Oakland, MD, Paul Durham
45. High Mountain Sports, McHenry, MD, Steve Green
46. Hindsight Images & Documentation, Grantsville, MD, Sharon Vannosdein
47. Humberson Homes, McHenry, MD, Chip Humberson
48. Information Control, McHenry, MD, John E. Hennessey
49. IRA Doctor, Mt. Lake Park, MD, Leo Martin
50. Kell's Cakerie, McHenry, MD, Markell O'Faolean-Fickes
51. Ken's Irish Pub, Friendsville, MD, Fred Fox
52. Kimberly A. Connaughton Attorney at Law, Oakland, MD, Kim Connaughton
53. LNH Enterprises, Cumberland, MD, Henry Maier
54. Lynn Lais Potter, Grantsville, MD, Lynn Lais
55. M. Edelman Art, Grantsville, MD, Michael Edelman
56. Miriam Sincell, Esquire, Oakland, MD, Miriam Sincell
57. Mountain State Brewing Co., McHenry, MD, Erin Croake
58. Moonshadow Cafe, Accident, MD, Lisa Jan
59. Naylor's Hardware, Oakland, MD, Janna Naylor
60. Nina Beitzel Realtor, McHenry, MD, Nine Beitzel
61. Offlake Realty & Rentals, McHenry, MD, Bob Orr
62. Precision Rafting, Friendsville, MD, Roger Zbel
63. Riverside Hotel, Friendsville, MD, Agnes Lichtner
64. Rock Excavating & General Services, McHenry, MD, Gary Beitzel
65. Russell Bounds Realtor, McHenry, MD, Russell Bounds
66. Sacred Meadow Montessori Children's House, Accident, MD, Carolyne Stolzenfels
67. Savage River Angler LLC, Swanton, MD, P.J. Daley
68. Savage River Outfitters, Swanton, MD, Mike Evans
69. Silver Tree Marine, LLC, McHenry, MD, Brian O'Brien
70. Sincell Publishing, Oakland, MD, Don Sincell
71. Spring Creek Outfitters, Oakland, MD, Harold Harsh
72. Steve Cabe Realtor, McHenry, MD, Steve Cabe
73. Taylor-Made Deep Creek Vacations & Sales, McHenry, MD, Jodi Refosco
74. Therapeutic Massage Delivered 2 U, Cumberland, MD, Tammy Deatelhauser
75. Trader's Coffee House, McHenry, MD, Brenda McDonnell
76. Tripco Property Management, McHenry, MD, Patrick Kane

77. Vision Quest Studios, Friendsville, MD, Crede Calhoun
78. Water Street Café, Friendsville, MD, Chris Stewart
79. Railey Mountain Lake Vacations, McHenry, MD, Nancy Railey
80. 1 Real Estate Choice, McHenry, MD, Melvin Smith
81. Deep Creek Massage Therapy, Swanton, MD, Anne White
82. Country Parson Honey, Mt. Lake Park, MD, Kathleen Gibbs
83. Main Street Books, Frostburg, MD, Fred Powell
84. Bubba's Wings, Oakland, MD, Leesa Towles
85. SHIFT Restaurant, Frostburg, MD, Jason Yowell
86. Maryland Mountain Kennels LLC, McHenry, MD, Mike Herdering
87. Dante's, Frostburg, MD, Sinead Walshe
88. Chanteclair Farms, Friendsville, MD, Leigh Clarke
89. Will-o-the-Wisp, McHenry, MD, Martin Heise
90. Brenda's Body Shop, Mt. Lake Park, MD, Brenda Brosnihan
91. Dennett Road Manor, Mt. Lake Park, MD, Elizabeth Goldsborough
92. Michael R. Stefan LLC, Oakland, MD, Michael Stefan
93. Nesline PC, Bittering, MD, Larry Nesline
94. A. Murray's Home Inspectors, Friendsville, MD, Adam Murray
95. JT Services Property Management, Oakland, MD, Todd Toothman
96. Country Home Construction, Oakland, MD, Tim Skipper
97. David Tuel Orthopedics, Oakland, MD, David Tuel
98. Gregg's Pharmacy/Wildwood Athletic Club, Oakland, MD, Fred Gregg
99. Sunrise Sanitation Services, Inc., Oakland, MD, Stuart Thayer
100. Deep Creek Realty, Grantsville, MD, Carol DiCenso
101. NobleMan Tile, Oakland, MD, Connor Norman
102. Deep Creek Times, Oakland, MD, Marta Schroyer
103. Creative Minds Childcare, Oakland, MD, Emily Elmlinger