

Green Party of Steuben County, New York

MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

Englebright (A10490)/Addabbo (S7592)

Bill Summary:

Establishes a moratorium on conducting hydraulic fracturing for the extraction of natural gas or oil in New York State until 120 days after federal Environmental Protection Agency finalizes a report on the effects of hydraulic fracturing on groundwater and freshwater supplies.

Justification:

The Steuben County Green Party calls on the New York State legislature to establish a moratorium on permitting gas wells that use horizontal drilling and hydro-fracturing to release gas from tight sand and shale formations for the following reasons:

- Because the injuries to health and the environment caused by horizontal drilling and high volume, high pressure hydrofracturing and the disposal of drilling wastes will affect our entire state and last long beyond our lifetimes,
- Because the health and environmental injuries will have damaging economic consequences to residential and commercial property values, tourism, agriculture, forestry, wineries, and colleges and universities in our state,
- Because the infrastructure costs of building and repairing roads, water treatment facilities, and other public services needed by the gas drilling industry will exceed the economic benefit to local communities,
- Because New York State has no laws restricting industrial scale water withdrawals from our rivers, lakes and aquifers,
- Because the citizens of New York are not protected from the toxic effects of oil and gas drilling by Federal and New York State environmental laws that apply to other industries,
- Because the subsidies granted to oil and gas drilling promote the use of fossil fuels and undermine the development of conservation, efficiency, and renewable energy sources, and
- Because the global warming effects of the methane in natural gas are many times greater than the global warming effects of carbon dioxide,

The Steuben County Green Party Strongly Urges Your Support of This Bill.