

Subject: STRONGLY OPPOSE SB0878

Dear Senate Education, Energy, and Environment Committee Members,

My name is _____, and I am a resident of Garrett County. I am writing to the Committee today to voice my strong opposition to SB0878 Oil and Natural Gas - Hydraulic Fracturing - Authorization. I am asking you to vote no on this bill.

I love living in the westernmost county of Maryland, although it is often frustrating when our elected representatives sponsor and vote on bills without allowing their constituents to weigh in. Of course, regarding hydraulic fracturing being allowed in Garrett County, our representatives know full well that we have already been through this fight, during which the majority of Garrett Countians made it crystal clear that fracking is not welcomed here or anywhere in Maryland. The majority's strong opposition to fracking was voiced in the years that led up to the decision to ban fracking in 2017. This legislative decision was supported and signed by then-Governor Larry Hogan.

I am angry that SB0878 was filed without public knowledge and an opportunity for us to express our concerns and ask questions about its filing. I do not want to see Garrett County, where the Marcellus Shale intersects with Maryland, fracked to the detriment of our economic, environmental, and public health. Specifically, I oppose fracking because _____ (pick 2-3 reasons from the talking points). These aren't my only concerns.

While Maryland's budget and energy crisis are complicated and require bold solutions, allowing hydraulic fracturing anywhere in Maryland does not help either situation. In the end and long-term, fracking will cost the state more than it generates in terms of costs to local governments, lost income and the resulting loss in taxes, a more significant cost required to attend to public and environmental health consequences, and future reclamation and clean-up. Regarding our 2023 clean energy goals, it cannot be over-emphasized that while some consider fracked gas power generation to be clean burning, fracking the gas is historically proven to be the opposite and a cause of environmental destruction.

Fracking will drain our resources and ultimately contradict the state's future goals and path to economic, environmental, and public health, most severely here in Garrett County. I urge you to vote no on SB0878. Thank you.

(Name)
(Address)
(Phone number)