

Dear Editor

Fresh water contaminated and forever removed from the hydrologic cycle; poisoned air, rivers and streams; gas well leaks and explosions; debilitating health problems including asthma, neurological disease and cancer; dead wildlife and livestock; earthquakes; toxic gas plumes causing families to evacuate their homes; poisoned and exploding water wells; loss of property value and ruined roads from 24-hour truck traffic.....These events have occurred in every state permitting horizontal fracking for natural gas extraction.

What do we get in return for allowing gas companies to exploit and destroy our health and environment?

NOT fuel independence: Gas is sold on the international market. Most goes overseas to China and India. Many companies drilling in the U.S. including in Michigan are foreign-owned.

NOT an improved economy: Gas drilling is a boom/bust industry. A few may get rich but many more lose as home values plummet and health care costs rise due to pollution from drilling. The industrialization of large swaths of forested state land destroys tourism-based business and the environment.

Horizontal fracking poses the biggest threat yet to Michigan's environment, economy and public health. Tax subsidies and exemptions from environmental laws enjoyed by gas companies make it impossible for green energy technologies to develop and compete.

It has already been banned in France, South Africa and Quebec. Detroit and Wayne County, and over 100 municipalities across the country, have passed resolutions calling for a ban. Over 3,000 people in northern Michigan have signed a petition to ban horizontal fracking.

Horizontal fracking is a short-sighted industrialization of rural landscapes which benefits only a privileged few. Its total carbon footprint is dirtier than coal. Its continued use simply delays the conversion to clean, green energy and exacts a huge permanent toll on our lives, health and the environment. We must ban its use.

Sincerely,