

Dear Governor Kasich,

As local elected officials, we are deeply concerned about the significant and growing threat hydraulic fracturing poses to our health and environment. We urge you to stand up for the right of all communities to determine whether, where, and how this dirty drilling is conducted within their own borders.

Across our state, fracking operations have contaminated water, put residents' health at risk, and turned rural landscapes into industrial zones. Here in Ohio, state data shows that fracking operations produced 30 million gallons of toxic wastewater in 2012 alone, all of which is exempted from our nation's bedrock wastewater and drinking water laws. Moreover, a growing number of scientific studies are now linking toxic fracking pollution with a wide range of health risks including cancer.

Fracking also imposes particular burdens on local communities, from strained services to ruined roads. As with other extractive booms, the arrival and expansion of fracking operations has been correlated with a wide range of social problems, including increases in domestic violence, drug use, traffic accidents, and civil disturbances. Other local impacts— such as water and soil contamination and reduced property values— are likely to persist long after the boom is gone, and we will be the ones left to pick up the pieces.

In the face of these grave impacts, and despite the Ohio Supreme Court's recent ruling, communities continue to seek to halt or substantially limit fracking within their borders. The notion that our communities have the right to bar or limit activities which threaten public health or the quality of life of their residents has a long tradition in Ohio law. This principle is the basis of common health ordinances and local land use rules, including zoning, which often involve trade-offs with property rights and other interests. Yet the oil and gas industry has the audacity to insist that this basic principle of local control should not apply to its operations.

Across Ohio, fracking is expanding at a frenzied pace, into our backyards and farmlands, next door to our hospitals and schools, and into the pristine and wild acres that provide drinking water and recreational opportunities for Ohioans. In light of the foregoing, we believe that all communities in Ohio should have the right to reject fracking operations— including not only well pads but also waste pits, compressor stations, and all the infrastructure of dirty drilling— within their borders. We urge you to declare your clear support for this right of local control here in Ohio.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Paul Wiehl  
Mayor, Athens

The Honorable Michael Summers  
Mayor, Lakewood

The Honorable Gregory Zilka  
Mayor, Avon Lake

The Honorable Susan Renda  
Mayor, Moreland Hills Village

The Honorable Dennis Wilcox  
Mayor, Cleveland Heights

The Honorable Trevor Elkins  
Mayor, Newburgh Heights Village

The Honorable Robert Stefanik  
Mayor, North Royalton

The Honorable David Mann  
Vice Mayor, Cincinnati

The Honorable Constance Barsky  
Vice Mayor, Granville

The Honorable Tom Sawyer  
Ohio Senator, D-Akron

The Honorable Cecil Thomas  
Ohio Senator, D-Cincinnati

The Honorable Charleta Tavares  
Ohio Senator, D-Columbus

The Honorable Kenny Yuko  
Ohio Senator, D-Richmond Heights

The Honorable Nickie Antonio  
Ohio Representative, D-Lakewood

The Honorable Lori Kokoski  
County Commission President, Lorain  
County

The Honorable Charles Adkins  
County Commissioner, Athens County

The Honorable Chris Chmiel  
County Commissioner, Athens County

The Honorable Lenny Eliason  
County Commissioner, Athens County

The Honorable Sunny Simon  
County Council Member, Cuyahoga County

The Honorable Dale Miller  
County Council Member, Cuyahoga County

The Honorable Lillian Moore  
Council President, Highland Hills

The Honorable Steve Richman  
Council President, Moreland Hills Village

The Honorable Larry Antoskiewicz  
Council President, North Royalton

The Honorable Sean Brennan  
Council President, Parma

The Honorable Eloise Henry  
Council President, Richmond Heights

The Honorable Steven Herron  
Council President, Vermilion

The Honorable Dennis Recker  
Council President, Whitehouse

The Honorable Patricia DeBerry  
Council President Pro Tem, Highland Hills

The Honorable Joseph Mercurio  
Council President Pro Tem, Mayfield  
Heights

The Honorable Rich Swirsky  
Council Member, Akron

The Honorable Bob Hoch  
Council Member, Akron

The Honorable Marilyn Keith  
Council Member, Akron

The Honorable Suzanne Greif  
Council Member, Amesville

The Honorable Marcia Burchby  
Council Member, Amesville

The Honorable Joe Miller  
Council Member, Amherst

The Honorable Christine Fahl  
Council Member, Athens

The Honorable Christine Knisely  
Council Member, Athens

The Honorable Jennifer Cochran  
Council Member, Athens

The Honorable Jeffrey Risner  
Council Member, Athens

The Honorable Kent Butler  
Council Member, Athens

The Honorable Mike Canterbury  
Council Member, Athens

The Honorable Michele Papai  
Council Member, Athens

The Honorable Steve Patterson  
Council Member, Athens

The Honorable Walter Genutis  
Council Member, Bedford

The Honorable Nick Haschka  
Council Member, Berea

The Honorable Daniel Gordon  
Council Member, Bowling Green

The Honorable John Zanfardino  
Council Member, Bowling Green

The Honorable George Stelmaschuk  
Council Member, Broadview Heights

The Honorable Glenn Goodwin  
Council Member, Broadview Heights

The Honorable Jennifer Mahnic  
Council Member, Broadview Heights

The Honorable James Giomini  
Council Member, Broadview Heights

The Honorable Brian Wolf  
Council Member, Broadview Heights

The Honorable Brian Ousley  
Council Member, Brunswick

The Honorable Patricia Hanek  
Council Member, Brunswick

The Honorable Vincent Carl  
Council Member, Brunswick

The Honorable Richard Hart  
Council Member, Canton

The Honorable Frank Morris  
Council Member, Canton

The Honorable Chris Seelbach  
Council Member, Cincinnati

The Honorable P.G. Sittenfeld  
Council Member, Cincinnati

The Honorable Wendell Young  
Council Member, Cincinnati

The Honorable Yvette Simpson  
Council Member, Cincinnati

The Honorable Brian Cummins  
Council Member, Cleveland

The Honorable Martin Keane  
Council Member, Cleveland

The Honorable Kenneth Johnson  
Council Member, Cleveland

The Honorable Michael Polensek  
Council Member, Cleveland

The Honorable Jeff Coryell  
Council Member, Cleveland Heights

The Honorable Madeline Scarniench  
Council Member, Euclid

The Honorable Michelle Lerner  
Council Member, Granville

The Honorable Jeff Crabill  
Council Member, Heath

The Honorable Barbara Spearman  
Council Member, Highland Hills

The Honorable Jean Abernathy-Smith  
Council Member, Highland Hills

The Honorable Nicole Young  
Council Member, Highland Hills

The Honorable Rev. Leah Lewis  
Council Member, Highland Hills

The Honorable Melissa Long  
Council Member, Kent

The Honorable Sam O'Leary  
Council Member, Lakewood

The Honorable Cindy Marx  
Council Member, Lakewood

The Honorable Thomas Bullock  
Council Member, Lakewood

The Honorable Frank DeTillio  
Council Member, Lorain

The Honorable Joseph Koziura  
Council Member, Lorain

The Honorable Eddie Edwards  
Council Member, Lorain

The Honorable Ron Jackson  
Council Member, Maple Heights

The Honorable Richard Trojanski  
Council Member, Maple Heights

The Honorable Susan Sabetta  
Council Member, Mayfield Heights

The Honorable Mark Kolesar  
Council Member, Medina

The Honorable Raymond Jarrett  
Council Member, Medina Township

The Honorable Ken DeMichael  
Council Member, Medina Township

The Honorable Bill Ostmann  
Council Member, Medina Township

The Honorable Daniel Fritz  
Council Member, Moreland Hills Village

The Honorable Gary Sherck  
Council Member, Moreland Hills Village

The Honorable Ted Buczek  
Council Member, Moreland Hills Village

The Honorable Eddie Van Bibber  
Council Member, Nelsonville

The Honorable Carol Floyd  
Council Member, Newark

The Honorable Jeremy Blake  
Council Member, Newark

The Honorable Phillip Beer  
Council Member, Newton Falls

The Honorable Daniel Langshaw  
Council Member, North Royalton

The Honorable Paul Marnecheck  
Council Member, North Royalton

The Honorable Sarah Allan  
Council Member, Norwood

The Honorable Chris Callender  
Council Member, Oakwood Village

The Honorable Elizabeth Meadows  
Council Member, Oberlin

The Honorable Kristin Peterson  
Council Member, Oberlin

The Honorable Lawrence Napoli  
Council Member, Parma

The Honorable Brian Brochetti  
Council Member, Parma

The Honorable Sharon Spencer  
Council Member, Ravenna

The Honorable Frank Lentine  
Council Member, Richmond Heights

The Honorable Michele Ernst  
Council Member, Seven Hills

The Honorable Carol Carter  
Council Member, Seville

The Honorable Bill Wtulich, Jr.  
Council Member, Sheffield Lake

The Honorable Paul Dzyak  
Council Member, Swanton

The Honorable Jim O'Reilly  
Council Member, Wyoming

The Honorable Marianne MacQueen  
Council Member, Yellow Springs

The Honorable Orrin Leimbach  
Trustee, Brownhelm Township