

## **MAYORS' STATEMENT SUPPORTING LOCAL CONTROL OF FRACKING**

As leaders of our nation's cities, we are strongly opposed to efforts by state legislatures, and state and federal officials limiting the ability of communities to protect themselves from the harms of industrial fracking.

This growing trend of preemption is alarming. Already, state legislatures in Texas, North Carolina and Oklahoma have passed legislation to pre-empt local laws, while earlier this year a measure that would have blocked local bans was narrowly defeated by a Florida state senate committee.

Our country continues to experience a rush of oil and gas drilling largely brought about by advances in fracking. This often occurs in residential areas, near homes, schools, and playgrounds in about 35 states. The Washington Post reports that more than 15 million Americans now live within a mile of a well that has been drilled since 2000. With scientific evidence showing major health and global warming impacts linked to oil and gas-related pollution, it's vital our cities and localities are able to protect the public health and environment from fracking's impacts.

In addition to the growing body of evidence around the wide range of health impacts from fracking, this form of oil and gas drilling imposes infrastructure 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 pressures on social services—including increases in fires, earthquakes, and traffic accidents. Other local impacts such as water and soil contamination and reduced property values are likely to persist long after the boom is gone.

It is no surprise that a growing number of communities are moving to halt or regulate fracking within their borders. The notion that our communities have the right to govern on issues and activities that threaten public health or the quality of life of their residents has a long tradition in law. This principle is the basis of public health ordinances and local land use rules, including zoning, which often involve trade-offs with property rights and other interests.

In light of the foregoing, we believe that all communities should have the right to decide whether, where, and how industrial fracking operations – including not only well pads, but waste disposal facilities and all related infrastructure – happen within their borders.

We urge our state and federal leaders to affirm the ability of localities to protect the health and quality of life of residents against the widespread expansion of industrial fracking into their communities. The best policy is to leave decisions over these local impacts to local governments and let the democratic will of their residents and other stakeholders be heard.

Signed,

Hon. Carol Dutra-Vernaci  
Mayor, Union City, CA

Hon. Deborah Robertson  
Mayor, Rialto, CA

Hon. Gary Davis  
Mayor, Elk Grove, CA

Hon. Jim Ruane,  
Mayor, San Bruno, CA

Hon. John A. Mirisch  
Mayor, Beverly Hills, CA

Hon. Lauren Meister  
Mayor, West Hollywood,  
CA

Hon. Patrick J. Furey  
Mayor, Torrance, CA

Hon. Pauline Russo Cutter  
Mayor, San Leandro, CA

Hon. Corinne Platt  
Mayor, Ophir, CO

Hon. Dennis Coombs  
Mayor, Longmont, CO

Hon. Nicole Nicoletta  
Mayor, Manitou Springs,  
CO

Hon. Frank C. Ortis  
Mayor, Pembroke Pines,  
FL

Hon. Gregory J. Oravec  
Mayor, Port St. Lucie, FL

Hon. Jacqueline Moore  
Mayor, North Port, FL

Hon. Jeri Muoio  
Mayor, West Palm Beach,  
FL

Hon. Philip Levine  
Mayor, Miami Beach, FL

Hon. Randall P. Henderson  
Mayor, Fort Myers, FL

Hon. Sandy Bradbury  
Mayor, Pinellas Park, FL

Hon. Laurel Prussing  
Mayor, Urbana, IL

Hon. James Brainard  
Mayor, Carmel, IN

Hon. Alex Morse  
Mayor, Holyoke, MA

Hon. E. Denise Simmons  
Mayor, Cambridge, MA

Hon. Patrick Wojahn  
Mayor, College Park, MD

Hon. Jennifer Roberts  
Mayor, Charlotte, NC

Hon. John Woods,  
Mayor, Davidson, NC

Hon. Sheila Davies  
Mayor, Kill Devils Hill,  
NC

Hon. Javier Gonzalez  
Mayor, Santa Fe, NM

Hon. Wayne J. Hall  
Mayor, Hempstead, NY

Hon. Nan Whaley  
Mayor, Dayton, OH

Hon. Charlie Hales  
Mayor, Portland, OR

Hon. Kitty Piercy  
Mayor, Eugene, OR

Hon. Bill Peduto  
Mayor, Pittsburgh, PA

Hon. Steve Arnold  
Mayor, Fitchburg, WI