

Park Slope Food Coop

"Good Food at Low Prices for Working Members through Cooperation since 1973"

December 8, 2010

Open letter to Members of the New York State Senate, Members of the New York State Assembly, Governor Patterson and Governor-Elect Cuomo:

We are a retail food cooperative that is owned by our 15,800 members. Last year we purchased millions of dollars of New York State produced agricultural products.

Earlier this year we voted to support a statewide ban on hydrofracking. Our mission statement includes a strong commitment to being a good environmental citizen.

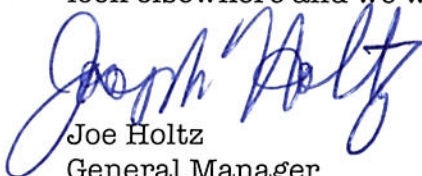
But today I want to alert you to a less obvious effect that hydrofracking will have on us and on the NYS farms whose products we make a great effort to buy. We are very responsive to the needs of our shoppers. If hydrofracking is allowed to go forward our shoppers are certain to be asking us if the fruits, vegetables, dairy products, eggs and meats from New York State are produced in areas where hydrofracking is taking place. It will not take many inquiries for us to start researching alternatives to NYS products.

In regard to animals raised in New York State, last year (and we have grown another 6% this year) we purchased the following: over \$500,000 of chickens and over \$400,000 of beef, lamb, and pork.

In regard to fruits and vegetables grown in New York State, we purchased over \$1,500,000 last year. It's too difficult for us to calculate the yogurt, cheese, eggs, cider and milk that we source from New York State.

As members of the Pride of New York program we have taken our responsibility to buy New York State produced food very seriously. But no one thinking clearly would think for a minute that hydrofracking will not quickly destroy that commitment.

As New Yorkers, yes even though we are urban New Yorkers, we want to preserve New York State farms. Please insure that we are not wondering about whether the grass fed cows we buy were drinking contaminated water and breathing the air fowled by numerous enormous trucks that will support the hydrofracking process and the process itself. I guarantee that our members will not want the fruits and veggies that come from farms in an industrial area. They will ask their employees to look elsewhere and we will.



Joe Holtz
General Manager
Park Slope Food Coop Inc, Brooklyn, New York