



TALKING POINTS FOR SULLIVAN COUNTY TOWN MEETINGS

PUBLIC HEALTH:

High-volume hydraulic fracturing (HVHF) is unlike any drilling that has ever taken place in New York. While drilling in the state has been going on for over 150 years, *not one HVHF well has ever been drilled in the state.*

High volume hydraulic fracturing (also known as “fracking”) entails pumping millions of gallons of toxic fluid into the ground for each gas well.

Despite the obvious risks involved, fracking has never been the subject of a single, credible, peer-reviewed scientific study.

There have been hundreds of instances of water contamination in other parts of the country linked to fracking.

The EPA is now conducting a study on fracking and drinking water. New York should wait for the results of this EPA study before permitting fracking.

Towns should pass resolutions in support of NYS Assembly bill A10490, which calls for a moratorium on fracking until after the EPA has completed its study.

ECONOMIC IMPACT:

The industrialization of rural areas will devastate our local economy. Agriculture, the most important sector of our economy, will be negatively impacted. Tourism, the second largest economic sector, will be devastated. Second homes account for 24 percent of our housing stock and an even greater percent of our tax base. If dangerous disruptive gas drilling takes place, second homeowners will flee and the real estate market will crash—that, in turn, will harm the construction industry and the services sector.

IMPACT ON TOWNS:

Under existing state law, towns have little control over drilling activities. Giant gas wells can be built right next to homes, hospitals, and houses of worship. If drillers move into the area, towns will have to steel themselves for spikes in drug use and prostitution, and be prepared to spend more on law enforcement, emergency medical services, and road repair. Towns should pass resolutions in support of NYS Assembly Bill A10633 which will restore the towns’ ability to regulate drilling.



YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO REPRESENT THE INTERESTS OF THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY.

HAVE THEY SIGNED A GAS LEASE, OR DO THEY BELONG TO A LANDOWNERS COALITION THAT IS SEEKING TO LEASE?

IF YOU DON'T KNOW ASK! YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO KNOW IF YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS STAND TO BENEFIT FROM THE DECISIONS THEY MAKE AS *YOUR* REPRESENTATIVE.

SHOULD OFFICIALS WITH A PERSONAL STAKE IN GAS DRILLING RECUSE THEMSELVES FROM VOTING ON GAS EXTRACTIONS ISSUES? *YOU* DECIDE.