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	Subject	CB 16-0758 – Hydraulic Fracturing Ban		

To: President and Members
of the City Council
c/o 409 City Hall

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The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) is pleased to have the opportunity to review Council Bill 16-0621, which revises Baltimore City's Health Code for the purpose of prohibiting hydraulic fracturing and setting certain penalties for the act of hydraulic fracturing.

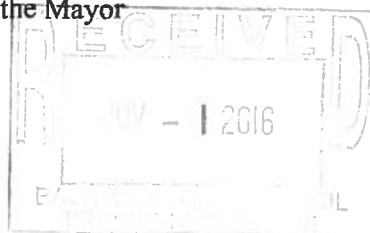
The relevant statutes within the current Health Code regulates actions related to the wastewater byproduct caused by hydraulic fracturing. It is known that a variety of chemicals proven to be toxic to humans and animals are used in the fracturing process. How these chemicals are stored treated and ultimately disposed of is of great significance to the health of communities, particularly in the Chesapeake watershed.

The Clean Water Act through the Safe Drinking Water Act (SWDA) requires EPA to develop minimum federal requirements for Underground Injection Control (UIC) Programs to safeguard public health by preventing injection wells from contaminating groundwater. However, SWDA §1421(d) essentially excludes hydraulic fracturing from UIC requirements, which leaves drillers virtually unregulated. This new legislation would remedy that by prohibiting hydraulic fracturing altogether and extending the current wastewater disposal penalties to include those who participate in this action within the confines of Baltimore City.

The Centers for Disease Control's National Center for Environmental Health and Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry recently stated there should be further studies to examine the extent to which byproducts from hydraulic fracturing can harm people or animals and the vegetables they eat. In the meantime, we must safeguard citizens of Baltimore City from potential harm.

Banning hydraulic fracturing protects both the physical and environmental of Baltimore City residents. BCHD's mission is to promote a healthy Baltimore City by advocating, leading, and providing services of the highest quality in order to promote health equity and protect the health of the residents of Baltimore. We support this legislation.

cc: Angela Gibson, Office of the Mayor



Sonia Sarkar, Chief Policy and Engagement Officer, Department of Health



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Commissioner of Health
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