

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 15-0241R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers Kraft, Henry, Holton, Stokes, Branch, Scott, Middleton, Welch,
Clarke, Curran, Spector, Reisinger, President Young
Introduced and read first time: July 20, 2015
Assigned to: Judiciary and Legislative Investigations Committee
Committee Report: Favorable
Adopted: November 14, 2016

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING

Request for State Action – Ban Hydraulic Fracturing in Maryland

FOR the purpose of supporting the passage of a statewide ban on hydraulic fracturing in
Maryland.

Recitals

Exposure to the chemicals used or released in hydraulic fracturing and hydraulic
fracturing-related activities may pose a widespread and significant risk to public health, safety,
and the environment.

Hydraulic fracturing and hydraulic fracturing-related activities can involve the use of high
volumes of chemicals, some of which are known to be carcinogenic, neurotoxic, endocrine
disruptors, or could otherwise be harmful to human health.

Hydraulic fracturing and hydraulic fracturing-related activities use millions of gallons of
freshwater per well, which are then contaminated by chemicals, salts, and potentially radioactive
materials.

Pollution caused by hydraulic fracturing and fracking-related activities threatens the
long-term well-being of communities. Clear evidence exists that fracking diminishes property
values, harms existing tourism-related businesses, and disrupts economic sustainability by
forcing reliance on a “boom/bust” economic order. Fracking is also known to jeopardize air and
water quality on which all communities depend.

Hydraulic fracturing irreversibly industrializes pristine rural communities, prohibiting their
ability to rely on farming or ecotourism after the process of extracting gas has finished.

Hydraulic fracturing and hydraulic fracturing-related activities result in the emission of
greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide and methane, which drives climate change. It is
irresponsible for a state to further invest in an industry that will exacerbate the impacts of climate
change.

As an urban center, and a port city, Baltimore has high potential for being heavily impacted
by climate change.

EXPLANATION: Underlining indicates matter added by amendment.
~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken by amendment.

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1 Emerging scientific research confirms that hydraulic fracturing and hydraulic fracturing
2 related activities are inherently risky. There is no scientific research supporting claims that it can
3 be carried out in a way that reduces health and environmental risks to an acceptable level.

4 The final report of the Marcellus Shale Safe Drilling Initiative concedes that implementing
5 “best management practices” cannot eliminate the risks involved in hydraulic fracturing and that
6 many gaps remain in the information with which it was working.

7 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That Council
8 supports the passage of a statewide ban on hydraulic fracturing in Maryland.

9 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Governor, the
10 Honorable Chairs and Members of the Baltimore City House and Senate Delegations to the
11 Maryland General Assembly, the President of the Maryland Senate, the Maryland House
12 Speaker, the Mayor, and the Mayor’s Legislative Liaison to the City Council.