



Legislation Text

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INTRODUCTORY*

CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL R
(Resolution)

Introduced by: Councilmember Kraft

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

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.

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

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

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

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

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