

# Support HB3386- HVHF Should Be Repealed in 2019

There are many reasons to keep fossil fuels in the ground. Here is a short list of what we've learned since 2013 when the state passed regulations on High Volume Horizontal Fracturing. We know it's an uncomfortable topic, but we are running out of time. The situation is urgent. Support [HB 3386](#) Prohibition on HVHF.

## **Our Planet Is at Risk**

We must work to keep all remaining fossil fuels in the ground. The most recent report from the International Panel on Climate Change<sup>1</sup> and the National Climate Report<sup>2</sup> says that to avoid life threatening climate related events we will need to cut our greenhouse gas emissions in half by 2030 and become carbon negative before 2050. If we do not meet these benchmarks, consequences include the Midwest becoming much hotter, less stable for growing crops, and algae blooms will threaten our freshwater resources, including Lake Michigan.

## **Water Contamination & Usage**

Hydraulic fracturing utilizes secret, proprietary chemicals, proppants and large amounts of freshwater to extract oil or gas. According to the USEPA, these operations produce roughly a trillion gallons of toxic wastewater annually, and thousands of accidents that include fracturing fluid leaks and spills, as well as groundwater contamination from containment ponds, injection wells, and improper wastewater disposal.<sup>3</sup>

## **Earthquake Hazards**

Instead of treating wastewater, oil and gas companies utilize injection wells to pump waste straight into the ground – a process that both threatens our groundwater and which the US Geological Service has determined significantly increases seismic activity. Oklahoma has experienced an increase of earthquake occurrences by a factor of 43-- approximately 4,000% increase in the past 8 years due to these extreme fossil fuel extraction techniques.<sup>4</sup>

## **Air Pollution**

During hydraulic fracturing, it is estimated that 4% of methane escapes into the atmosphere. Methane is a gas that is toxic to breathe and is 87 times more potent than carbon dioxide at trapping planet warming heat within our atmosphere. Volatile organic compounds, nitrogen oxides, and particulate matter are emitted in unhealthy quantities. Exposure to elevated levels of these air pollutants can lead to adverse health outcomes, including respiratory symptoms, cardiovascular disease, and cancer.<sup>5</sup>

## **Our Health and Wellbeing Is Threatened**

Health professionals cite multiple peer reviewed studies that link fracturing to premature births and birth defects, respiratory and heart disease, various cancers, and many other life-threatening health conditions. Communities are threatened by the risks of pipeline and storage vessel explosions and local infrastructure, such as roads and bridges, can suffer significant damage from increases in truck

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/sites/2/2018/07/sr15\\_headline\\_statements.pdf](https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/sites/2/2018/07/sr15_headline_statements.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <https://concernedhealthny.org/compendium/>

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-12/documents/hfdwa\\_executive\\_summary.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-12/documents/hfdwa_executive_summary.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> <https://phys.org/news/2016-11-oklahoma-experienced-earthquake.html>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.ucsusa.org/clean-energy/coal-and-other-fossil-fuels/environmental-impacts-of-natural-gas#references>

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and equipment traffic. There is also an increase in crime associated with large influxes of transient workers necessary for these types of fossil fuel projects. <sup>6</sup>

### **Countries and States Recognize the Danger**

Many countries have already taken the lead in banning hydraulic fracturing, as have some U.S. States. While New York has banned this practice, the issue is now becoming bipartisan with Governor Larry Hogan (R) enacting a ban in Maryland and with Governor Ron DeSantis (R) now calling for its ban in Florida. To that end, Representative Heather Fitzenhagen (R) has introduced a ban bill in the Florida House while Senator Linda Stewart (D) has introduced a ban in the Florida Senate. We need this same level of commitment from legislators in Illinois. Our health, environment, and our planet depend on it.

Supporting [HB 3386](#) is imperative to meeting the goals of the The Governor's "Powering IL's Future", the Paris Climate Accord, and the United Nations' IPCC report <sup>7</sup> which warns we have less than 12 years to mitigate away from the worst case scenarios of drought, extreme heat, floods, poverty and food security concerns. Help us meet your goals of a Renewable Energy Future and keep all fossil fuels in the ground.

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**For more information visit  
IL Coalition Against Fracking  
[ILbanfracking.org](http://ILbanfracking.org) or 872-201-8525**

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<sup>6</sup> <https://concernedhealthny.org/compendium/>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/oct/08/global-warming-must-not-exceed-15c-warns-landmark-un-report>