

Dear Policymaker,

Any day now, Chesapeake Energy will begin natural gas drilling in Kalkaska County, near Grass Lake.

I call upon you, an elected official of the State of Michigan, to impose a moratorium on drilling in shale formations, a decision which will protect the land, air and water of our state.

As has been shown in cases across the country, from Colorado to Pennsylvania, hydraulic fracturing or “fracking” for natural gas is not safe.

I am extremely concerned for our public health and safety and for the integrity of our clean water and air. As the disaster in the gulf continues to unfold, and millions of gallons of oil are even now destroying the Kalamazoo River--gas drilling accidents are a staple on the news, this is NOT the time to allow industry profit to trump citizen safety. We urge you to pass the strongest possible moratorium bill NOW to protect the basic elements of life and the natural beauty of our state.

Chesapeake Energy has such a bad reputation across the nation that it now has to do business in local communities under pseudonyms. Chesapeake is operating in Northern Michigan as “Northern Michigan Energy.”

Please do not attempt to see this as a “jobs” issue for Michigan citizens, as Chesapeake does not hire local people, they bring in contractors from Texas and other states where they have already destroyed communities through their unscrupulous business practices and disregard for public safety.

Similar moratoria are being passed in other states as investigation into the safety of “fracking” and the business practices of companies like Chesapeake are underway.

Please rise to the duty for which you were elected—serve the public interest and not the interests of the shareholders in companies like Total, Chesapeake and Halliburton.

Thank you for taking prompt action on this urgent issue!

Signed,