

Minister Pat Rabbitte,  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare St,  
Dublin 2.

Name.....  
Address.....

Date: .....

Dear Minister Rabbitte,

Re Onshore Licensing for Hydraulic Fracturing

In October 2011 I wrote to your department voicing my concerns at the granting of licensing options to three companies for extracting shale gas, by a method known as Hydraulic Fracturing, but to date have had no reply. My extensive research into the process of Hydraulic Fracturing proves conclusively that the risks far out-weigh any benefits. Last year, 60 US scientists with expertise in water treatment systems signed a letter expressing concern about chemicals and other contaminants used in hydraulic fracturing ending up in the water supply. Their fear is that municipal drinking water filtration systems are not designed to adequately remove such toxins. The US based Endocrine Disruptor Exchange, TEDX says that fracking fluid may contain 300 chemicals, of which 40% are endocrine disruptors (disturb the hormone system) and a third are suspected carcinogens. Over 60% can harm the brain and nervous system. Feel free to confirm my research by looking at the TEDX website <http://www.endocrinedisruption.com/home.php>.

The practice of hydraulic fracturing has wreaked havoc on communities all over the US, causing landscape degradation and serious air and water pollution. Should this occur in our country the visual impact would be enormous, pads, pits and evaporation tanks as well as access roads, thousands of acres of agricultural land would be lost, all of this for just a few years of energy supply.

We are not prepared to sacrifice our land, water, air and ultimately the health of our children. We will not be fooled by the promise of a few jobs. We, the Irish people have tolerated the severe austerity measures imposed upon us because of unsecured investments, but this we will not tolerate.

It is on record that the government have been informed about the many risks associated with hydraulic fracturing, so your department could be held responsible for any damage to human health or the environment. Therefore, you have no option but to ban hydraulic fracturing immediately in the Republic of Ireland.

We are aware that Aberdeen University will advise the EPA in their compiling of an E.I.A., this in our view is unacceptable because Aberdeen University are showing a conflict of interest due to ties with, and sponsorship by the oil and gas industry. <http://www.abdn.ac.uk>.

Yours Sincerely,

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