



Frack-Free Wales:

Welcoming the Assembly Decision to Oppose Extreme Energy in Wales

4th February 2015

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Frack-Free Wales are delighted to announce that Members of the Welsh Assembly Government have listened to the voice of its population and overwhelmingly agreed to Plaid Cymru's motion that states that the National Assembly for Wales:

- 1. Notes that Wales has historically made a substantial contribution to the UK's energy portfolio.**
- 2. Regrets the provisions within the UK Government's Infrastructure Bill that will allow fracking companies to drill beneath Welsh homes without permission from property owners.**
- 3. Believes that energy should be fully devolved to the National Assembly for Wales and that the Welsh Government should have the power to block fracking.**
- 4. Calls on the Welsh Government to do everything within its power to prevent fracking from taking place in Wales until it is proven to be safe in both an environmental and public health context.**

This motion, approved by a margin of 37 to 16 votes, does not in itself place a moratorium on extreme energy extraction in Wales. It is, however, a huge step in the right direction. It is extremely positive that the motion received cross-party support. We are grateful to those Assembly Members that have actively engaged and listened to our concerns, Llyr Gruffydd AM, Bethan Jenkins AM, Mick Antoniw AM and Peter Black AM in particular, but there are many others.

As the United Nations Environmental Program reported in 2012 unconventional gas drilling has resulted in 'observed impacts on the environment and human health that

raise legitimate public concerns'¹. These impacts include but are not limited to: seismic activity; poisoned water tables; the injection of dangerous and unidentified chemicals into the ground under our homes at high velocity; well fracture leading to methane (CH₄) escape which is 34 times more potent than carbon dioxide and a marked increase in traffic and noise pollution.

At Frack-Free Wales our purpose is to democratically and peacefully resist this dangerous intrusion by transnational corporations onto our lives. We are part of a vast community of campaigners in Wales, the UK and beyond, who work tirelessly to resist extreme energy extraction everywhere.

“There will always be resistance to these dangerous practices from local people. Politicians should give up trying to appease oil and gas lobbyists and chancing their luck. We require a ban on fracking and an urgent investment in renewable energy, not generous tax breaks to a dying industry that harms civilization. Isn't it about time Westminster listened to us?”

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- Frack Free Wales

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¹ UNEP (2012) *Can We Safely Squeeze the Rocks?*