

21 December 2009

The Hon. David A. Paterson
State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Gov. Paterson:

Motivated to do God's will, instructed to be stewards of God's creation, moved by the concerns of our community for a stable financial future, and aware that our natural resources are irreplaceable, we, the undersigned, respectfully ask that you refrain from signing the Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement concerning proposed natural gas drilling in the Marcellus Shale Formation until unbiased sources investigate all possible implications for the State of New York, including economic, spiritual, environmental, and health-related.

As active members of Upstate New York, we are concerned that the proposals outlined in the SGEIS will detrimentally impact our area's tourism business. Any cost/benefit analysis should include the potential for lost tourism revenue, including impact on wineries, bed and breakfasts, hotels, specialty stores and restaurants.

As God's children, we are all entitled to a healthy relationship with the earth and its resources. Based on the experiences of other geographically proximate communities in which drilling has occurred, we are concerned that drilling will make tap water undrinkable and thus make people fearful of water, a basic necessity. We ask that you research and take into account the impact that unsafe drinking water would have on the mental and physical health of your constituents before you permit any drilling to commence.

As a community that has done its research on this issue, we realize that the safety of hydrofracking varies based on the geological formation in which it is performed. We ask that you investigate the effects of drilling on similar shale-rock formations and that any investigation be done by an unbiased source. This source should be willing to publish all of its results at a time that would allow for open public discourse and debate.

As a justice-minded community, we reject any development that will further harm the poorest among us. We ask that you investigate the claim that jobs will result from allowing drilling to see how many sustainable, long-term jobs are created and if low-income, local members of the community will be the recipients of these jobs. We must consider whether the benefits of job creation outweigh the strain our neighbors will experience if the roads and bridges they travel become impassible, if they lose their only source of well water, if they are otherwise exposed to toxic or radioactive chemicals, if the purity of the air they breathe is affected or the noise they are subjected to is at a level prohibited by law.

We recognize that, as a steward of the State of New York, this is your greatest opportunity to enhance the quality of life for millions of your constituents. We further recognize that myriad factors will complicate the decision-making process. Mindful of these challenges, but hopeful for a future in which we can all prosper, we call on you to refrain from signing the SGEIS until unbiased sources investigate all possible implications for the State of New York. We will keep you in our prayers during this difficult time.

cc: New York State Congressional Delegation

[See attached for signatures.]

**SIGNATURES FOR LETTER TO GOVERNOR DAVID PATERSON: A SPIRITUAL RESPONSE TO SGEIS DATED
21 DECEMBER 2009**

NAME

ADDRESS