

To: Members of the Democratic Platform Committee:

We call for an immediate national ban on fracking, a halt to eminent domain entitlements, and an energy policy that does not harm human health.

Dear Committee Members:

Our Children matter! Their future matters! Their health and safety matter! The policies adopted in this presidential term will determine if our children will get sick; if the air they depend upon will poison them; if the water they drink will be toxic; if they will develop life-threatening illnesses as adults or even earlier. There has been much discussion about the imminent climate crisis that they will have to deal with because of the misguided choices we, as a society, have made for decades. However, many of you are also ignoring the equally cataclysmic public health crisis well underway as a result of these same failed choices and policies. We are writing this letter so that you go into this vote being entirely informed on the facts, on the science¹, and on reports from around the country². The energy policy we have today is fracturing our children and we demand an immediate halt to the harm.

We are writing to inform you that if you fail to ban fracking and if you fail to adopt an energy policy that expeditiously transitions us away from fossil fuel dependency, especially methane; then you are knowingly sentencing hundreds of thousands of children around the country to be sacrificed at the altar of our nation's addiction to fossil fuels. We don't live near fracking wells alone. We also live near pipelines, compressors stations, metering stations, storage facilities, and near the massive anchor projects driving all of the rest of the infrastructure, gas fired power plants; 300 of which are scheduled to be built around the country as a result of the deeply flawed Clean Power Plan. We live in once pristine rural communities, suburban enclaves, and high density urban areas. We live in every state in the country. All of this infrastructure is expanding around the country at an unprecedented rate. Each and every child living near each and every one of these facilities deserves protection from the harm carried with fracked oil and gas throughout its infrastructure network.

The cover of this letter is a picture of a child living near an interstate gas compressor station after a series of blow-down events in the town of Minisink, New York. Nosebleeds have been linked to formaldehyde exposure which has been found to be at dangerously high levels around compressor stations.³ Formaldehyde is a known carcinogen and long-term exposure has been linked to leukemia. New York has a moratorium on fracking, but because of our national energy policy federal agencies can impose these facilities on any community anywhere in the country,

¹ <http://concernedhealthny.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/PSR-CHPNY-Compendium-3.0.pdf>

² <http://www.utne.com/environment/minisink-maladies-zl0z1512zsau.aspx>

³ <http://comingcleaninc.org/assets/media/images/Reports/Warning%20Signs%20Report.pdf>

in spite of state efforts to enact protections. From Aliso Canyon in California⁴ to Minisink in New York, adverse health impacts from fracked-gas exposure are manifesting all over the country.

Our communities are under siege by fracked gas infrastructure from wellhead to power plant right now. We are held hostage by companies with egregious entitlements to take our homes, our land, our health, and safety. Those of us living near these facilities are terrorized every day knowing that a catastrophic explosion can occur at any moment. Many of us have been forced to flee our homes. We should not have to chose between our home and the safety of our children in the United States of America.

We call for an immediate national ban on fracking, a halt to eminent domain entitlements, and an energy policy that does not harm human health.

A nation that is willing to sacrifice its children is a nation that stands on a moral sinkhole.

Sincerely,

Undersigned

For most current list of signatories go to ProtectOrangeCounty.org

⁴ <http://enenews.com/experts-formaldehyde-spewing-massive-la-gas-blowout-body-start-digesting-very-dangerous-methane-basically-turning-embalming-fluid-officials-be-warning-theyre-dont-about-video>