Hydraulic fracturing, or “fracking” is a dirty and dangerous process for extracting natural gas. This process forces millions of gallons of water, sand, and an often unknown chemical cocktail into the ground and through drinking water aquifers to release natural gas.

The natural gas industry exploits gaping loopholes and exceptions in public health protections to keep fracking chemicals secret. Toxic pollution from fracking has led to drinking water contamination, dangerous air pollution and even earthquakes. We can power our nation and create jobs without sacrificing our air, water and health — we need to scale up clean, safe energy sources like wind and solar now.

**FRACKING, EXPOSED**

**WHAT WE CAN DO**

**ENGAGE** your city council, county commissioners and state officials to demand your rights to safety, transparency, and accountability from the oil and gas industry. Remind them to put the health of families and communities before corporate profits. Urge them to use their local home rule where a municipality’s support or opposition should factor into the decision-making process.

**CONTACT** your state and federal representatives to demand they put the health of families and communities before the interests of powerful lobbyists. Insist they support the “Fracturing Responsibility and Awareness of Chemicals Act” (S. 587 & H.R. 1084) which removes the exemption to the Safe Drinking Water Act for gas and oil extraction and calls for the disclosure and monitoring of the chemicals used. At the very least, demand stronger regulations for fracking.

**REACH OUT** to your fellow citizens. People are fighting back in fracking-heavy cities and states, and local and state officials have passed bans on fracking, moratoriums on fracking, and bans on the disposal of fracking waste.

LEARN MORE AT

www.sierraclub.org/fracking

ohsierrafrackgroup@yahoo.com
WHAT FRACKING MEANS FOR OHIO

HIGH RISK INJECTION WELLS
The hazardous waste produced by fracking is toxic and treating it is so expensive, that most companies simply dispose of it in injection wells. must be disposed of in injection wells. There are various classes of injection wells, but Class I and Class II are the most common. Class I wells are tasked with disposing of the hazardous waste from fracking. Unfortunately the waste products from the oil and gas industry are not considered hazardous and are injected into Class II wells. In Ohio, the state Department of Natural Resources determines where these wells are to be located. Local officials and citizens have little power or say in these decisions, and this must be changed. 693 of Ohio’s wells failed inspection in 2011.

EARTHQUAKES
Seismologists have confirmed that underground injection of wastewater from fracking carries a risk of causing earthquakes. Injection wells can degrade over time and are responsible for a series of Earthquake Clusters from Lake Erie to central West Virginia. One county in Oklahoma with over 180 injection wells recently experienced an exponential increase in quakes — the number ballooned from 50 in 2009 to 1,000 in 2010. Clusters also occurred in Arkansas and Blackpool, UK, all linked to injection wells.

WATER AND AIR POLLUTION
In late 2011, the EPA released a study of Pavillion, Wyoming, that makes a link between fracking and groundwater pollution. Cases of contaminated well water are surfacing in the Mahoning Valley in Ohio, potentially threatening crucial resources like Mill Creek Park and the Meander Creek Reservoir, which supply fresh water for a major portion of Northeast Ohio. The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry has found that well water in Medina County in Ohio has enough gas content to be considered “potentially explosive.”

THE COSTS FOR OUR COMMUNITIES
Fracking carries a risk of dangerous emergencies at well sites, including explosions, fires, water contamination, and even deaths of workers. All of these have occurred at well sites in Pennsylvania. Local responders, lacking knowledge of industry materials, face greater risk without this proper information including but not limited to the chemicals used in fracking fluids. This is an issue we want to prevent from happening in Ohio. Additionally, the increase in truck traffic causes a tremendous burden on local communities who must deal with the increased noise, the stress on infrastructure such as damaged roads, and the dangers of hazardous waste spills. Ohio families shouldn’t have to bear the high costs of dirty fracking.

THE THREAT TO OUR PARKS & FORESTS
As natural gas exploration and the dangerous practice of hydraulic fracturing (or “fracking”) continue to expand, the industry has its sights set on drilling our most precious public lands, including the Wayne National Forest and our state parks and forests. HB 133, passed in the Ohio state legislature, opens our state lands, including university lands and state parks and forests to horizontal hydraulic fracturing. With few safeguards in place to protect our air, water, and communities, the natural gas industry – already running amok on both public and private lands nationally – has no place in the Wayne National forest and on Ohio public lands. Opposition to drilling on all public lands to ensure that our unique and world-renowned wild legacy can be enjoyed by future generations is an important component of the Beyond Gas campaign. The Ohio Sierra Club is a coalition member of the Coalition to Protect Ohio Parks. For more information see: www.protectohiosparks.org

THE MYTH OF JOBS
Two recent studies, including one by Ohio State University, have exposed industry PR as exaggerating job creation in the natural gas industry – in fact, the actual numbers are well below half of what the industry claims. Many jobs are being outsourced, and workers in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia are increasingly being asked to relocate to Texas and Oklahoma. Fracking jobs are unsustainable, and offer no long-term stability.