



Dear friends,

A rush to drill is sweeping the United States. Across the country, the oil and gas industries are rushing into new areas to extract oil and gas as quickly and cheaply as possible.

They have started using risky technologies like hydraulic fracturing (“fracking”) before we understand the full extent of the negative impacts on the health of local people, communities, water, air, climate, and other critical resources.

Landowners and communities are struggling to cope. Existing laws are outdated and loophole-riddled, and enforcement is universally inadequate and underfunded. The result: as industry rakes in record profits from fracking-enabled drilling, it passes on drilling’s heaviest costs to landowners, local communities and future generations. That’s because elected leaders (sometimes influenced by dirty energy money) too often refuse to hold the oil and gas industries accountable for the damage they cause.

This summer, there is a real risk that fracking will begin in New York; we are fighting industry to protect air and water in New Mexico; we are campaigning against industry-friendly agencies in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Texas, Wyoming, Arkansas, and every other state where the rush to drill is on. On the national stage, the EPA is under immense industry pressure, the Department of Interior is proposing regulations that are too weak to protect our public lands. Congress could act to protect us, yet most members of Congress spread the persistent myth that gas is a “clean” energy – which is not only false, but keeps us from moving towards truly clean energy and the ending our reliance on fossil fuels.

We know better. The out-of-control rush to drill is putting oil and gas industry profits over our health, our families, our property, our communities, and our futures. Our leaders must take action to stop the rush of unsafe gas drilling. **One month from today we will gather in DC and tell our leaders STOP THE FRACK ATTACK!**

We invite community members and organizations everywhere to rally at the Capitol in Washington, D.C. on July 28, 2012 to demand no more drilling that harms public health, water, and air. Instead of pushing for the increased use of oil and gas, elected officials and public agencies must insist that the industry stop drilling and put communities and the environment first, starting by removing special exemptions and subsidies for the oil and gas industry.

Won’t you join us?

Signed,

Mark Ruffalo, Pete Seeger, Lois Gibbs, Bill McKibben, Ed Begley Jr., Ed Asner, Josh Fox, Gus Speth, Cornel West, Vandana Shiva, Holly Near, James Hansen, Dar Williams, Michael Kieschnick, Joe Uehlein, and Margot Kidder