

Economic Facts

- Garrett County's population since 2000 has stayed level at **30,000**; the **unemployment rate has been trending downward from 10.7% to 5.6%** between Jan. 2013 and Dec. 2016 (FRED – Federal Reserve Economic Research)
- Fracking – **historically has proven to be a boom then bust business - Many industry jobs are not filled by local residents**, and a boom town effect, including escalating cost of living and other social problems, has been documented in places where an extraction industry rapidly arises. [<http://midwestenergynews.com/2013/01/10/u-s-chambers-fracking-job-boom-behind-the-numbers/>] (Fracking jobs are often hyped -- in 2015, **Pennsylvania** stopped publishing the Marcellus Shale Fast Facts report because it **inflated estimates of total jobs impact**. [https://org2.salsalabs.com/o/6751/images/Shale_Report_Card_Final.pdf])
- In Western Maryland, the **two biggest industries are tourism and farming**. How many tourism jobs will go away when the tourists stop coming? Does anybody really want to vacation next to an industrial site? Industry statistics indicate that **fracking a well in PA averages 5 million gallons of water & 25,000 gallons of chemicals – for one well site. To haul this in and out requires 1000 tanker truck trips**. (Fracking does create truck driving jobs, for the short term.) Meanwhile, residents and farmers must cope with contaminated water; everyone will be impacted by truck-related pollution and accidents.
- **Hazardous wastewater poses an enormous disposal challenge** and the toxic chemicals in fracking fluid threaten to leach into our drinking water. The industrial well pads, machinery and truck traffic that come along with the drilling process disrupt rural towns, straining infrastructure, clogging roads, and adding to noise and air pollution.
- Western Maryland's economy is driven by tourism "**Over 1.2 million tourists annually flock to Garrett County** in pursuit of fresh air ...150 miles of trails, 65 miles of shoreline, award-winning restaurants, recreation, and resorts. From antiquing to adventure sports, Garrett County is reinventing rural recreation." [<http://www.gcedonline.com/tourism-recreation>]
- **60% of the residential improved real estate sales** in Garrett County, 1st qtr., 2013 were in the **Deep Creek Lake watershed** [<https://chambermaster.blob.core.windows.net/userfiles/UserFiles/chambers/847/CMS/714.pdf>]
- **A moratorium hurts the economy** because people don't invest in their businesses and are worried about potential decreases in property values. A Duke study, done in Pennsylvania, found that home values decreased by an average of more than \$30,000 for homes on well water within about a mile of shale drilling. [<http://www.bizjournals.com/triangle/news/2015/12/15/duke-study-fracking-lowers-home-values-by-30.html>]

The moratorium/fracking bill (SB 862) is bad policy. It mandates local referenda in 2018 — and beyond, forcing communities to decide one by one if they wish to allow fracking. Fracking's harms are not limited to the communities in which wells are drilled; ancillary infrastructure that accompanies drilling (increased truck traffic, pipelines, and compressor stations) crosses county lines.

Health & Safety Costs

- The accidental death rate in oil/gas industries is **more than 7 times the average death rate** for U.S. workers.
- The oil and gas industry has more deaths from fires and explosions than any other private industry, according to an EnergyWire review of federal labor statistics. It employs less than 1 percent of the U.S. workforce, but in the past five years it **has had more than 10 percent of all workplace fatalities from fires and explosions**. A research paper from the Colorado School of Public Health earlier this year observed that accidents at well sites don't simply jeopardize workers but can also expose those who live nearby to fires, explosions and hazardous chemicals. [October 2014 E&E News for energy & environment professionals, <http://www.eenews.net/stories/1060007532>]
- *Unconventional Gas and Oil Drilling Is Associated with Increased Hospital Utilization Rates* – peer reviewed study, (published July 2015) found that **pregnant women living close to a high density of natural gas wells drilled with hydraulic fracturing were more likely to have babies with lower birth weights** than women living farther from such wells, according to a University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health analysis of southwestern Pennsylvania birth records.
- The Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health researchers say that levels of radon in Pennsylvania homes have risen since 2004, around the time that the fracking industry began drilling natural gas wells in the state. The researchers, publishing online April 9, 2015 in *Environmental Health Perspectives*, also found that buildings located in the counties **where natural gas is most actively being extracted out of Marcellus shale have in the past decade seen significantly higher readings of radon**. There were no county differences prior to 2004. Radon, an odorless radioactive gas, is considered the second-leading cause of lung cancer in the world after smoking.

WHO is going to build a home in Western Maryland, or expand a tourist based business, with fracking on the horizon?

Polls Show the Majority in Maryland Want a Ban on Fracking

- A 2016 [OpinionWorks poll](#) found that Maryland voters support a ban on fracking by a 2-to-1 margin. In Garrett County, a prime target area for the oil and gas industry, the margin of support is more than 2-to-1, with 57% in support of a fracking ban and only 27% opposed. The latest [Washington Post poll](#) found that a similarly strong majority of Marylanders — 60 percent — oppose fracking. [<http://chesapeakeclimate.org/maryland/fracking/>]

WE NEED A PERMANENT BAN!
Support SB740 and HB 1325