

Resolution No.:	<u>18-715</u>
Introduced:	<u>February 7, 2017</u>
Adopted:	<u>February 14, 2017</u>

**COUNTY COUNCIL  
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

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Lead Sponsor: Councilmember Elrich  
Co-Sponsors: Councilmembers Berliner, Riemer, Katz, Leventhal, Navarro, Hucker, and Rice

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**SUBJECT:** Opposition to Unconventional Gas Development and Production

**Background**

1. “Unconventional Gas Development and Production” (UGDP) enabled by “hydraulic fracturing” is also known as “fracking.” UGDP also includes UGDP-related activities.
2. Multiple studies have demonstrated that exposure to the chemicals used or released in UGDP may pose a widespread and significant risk to public health, safety and the environment.
3. UGDP can involve the use of high volumes of chemicals, some of which are known to be carcinogenic, neurotoxic, endocrine disruptors, or could otherwise be harmful to human health.
4. UGDP uses millions of gallons of freshwater per well, which are then contaminated by chemicals, salts, and potentially radioactive materials.
5. Pollution caused by UGDP threatens the long-term well-being of communities. Clear evidence exists that UGDP diminishes property values, harms existing tourism-related businesses and disrupts economic sustainability by forcing reliance on a “boom/bust” economic order.
6. Fracking is also known to jeopardize air and water quality on which all communities depend.
7. UGDP irreversibly industrializes pristine rural communities, impairing their ability to rely on farming or ecotourism after the process of extracting gas has finished.
8. UGDP results in the emission of greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide and methane, which drive climate change, and it is irresponsible for a state to permit new industrial activity in an industry that will exacerbate the impacts of climate change.

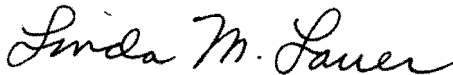
9. UGDP is known to cause earthquakes, both from the process of fracking itself, and from the storage of fracking waste-fluids underground.
10. One of Montgomery County's water supply sources in case of drought is located in Garrett County, which is a likely site for UGDP if it were to be permitted.
11. UGDP is not a sustainable or environmentally friendly economic development or job-generating initiative.
12. Montgomery County has prohibited fracking in the County.
13. The final report of the Marcellus Shale Safe Drilling Initiative concedes that implementing "best management practices" cannot eliminate the risks involved in UGDP and that many gaps remain in the information available to study the risks of UGDP.

**Action**

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following resolution:

The Council urges the Maryland General Assembly and the Governor to enact a statewide ban on hydraulic fracturing and other types of Unconventional Gas Development and Production.

This is a correct copy of Council action.



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Linda M. Lauer, Clerk of the Council