



NEWS.....

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COUNTY LEGISLATOR CHRIS HIGGINS INTRODUCES LEGISLATION TO BAN HYDROFRACKING IN ALBANY COUNTY

ALBANY, NY – County Legislator Chris Higgins, (D- Center Square), announced today that he has introduced legislation to ban hydraulic fracturing in Albany County. Hydraulic fracturing or ‘fracking’ is the much-debated natural gas technique that uses a high-pressure mix of water and chemicals to blast open shale formations and release gas.

New York State’s moratorium on high volume hydraulic fracturing for shale gas was lifted earlier this summer and the state is now in the final phase of regulatory review.

“It is unfortunate that the public comment period on hydraulic fracturing was only sixty days. Clearly, this is not enough time to review and analyze such a complicated issue, and if the state is not willing to take the risks associated with fracking seriously, then we in Albany County must,” Legislator Higgins said. “Passage of this local law becomes even more critical in the absence of a more thorough and deliberative process for comments and review of fracking to protect the interests of Albany county taxpayers.”

If passed, Albany County would join several other upstate municipalities such as the City of Buffalo, Ulster, and Tompkins counties that have opposed fracking in their communities.

“While not directly in the Marcellus Shale region, the potential ancillary effects fracking may have on Albany County’s natural resources, air quality and water supply remain, “ Higgins noted.

The local law will be formally introduced at the September meeting of the Albany County legislature and will in all likelihood be referred to the law committee, which Higgins chairs for further consideration prior to a vote by the full body.