

Florida Businesses Support a Ban on Fracking

Dear Florida Legislators,

We, Floridians Against Fracking and our undersigned allies, write to urge you to support HB 451/SB 442 to ban fracking in Florida. Business leaders in Florida understand that the state's economy requires protecting the environment. Florida's largest industries, tourism, development, and agriculture, depend on access to unpolluted waters. Fracking and the associated chemicals used pose unacceptable risks to the health of our families, neighbors, employees, visitors, and environment.

Florida is a major tourist destination for the world. Visit Florida reported a record 113 million tourists in 2016, contributing over \$109 billion to our economy. Fracking threatens the health of our waters, the main draw for most of our tourists, and the Floridan Aquifer, the sole source of drinking water for millions of Floridians. Polluted waters and lack of access to drinking water would be detrimental to the tourism industry. Likewise, agriculture, a more than \$80 billion a year industry, would take a great hit if crops and livestock were impacted by the same tainted water supply.

A truly sustainable economy depends on a clean and healthy environment, and fosters jobs in agriculture, tourism, and renewable energy. The Deepwater Horizon BP oil spill in 2010 shows the impact that water pollution, or even perceived pollution, can have on Florida's industries. According to a study by the Knowland Group, 60% of hotels experienced cancellations due to the spill. In addition, approximately 50,000 jobs were lost on Florida's Gulf Coast south of the Panhandle as a result of the oil spill according to a study by Harvard's Kennedy School. Additionally impacted was the construction industry whose strength results from the steady stream of new residents and visitors who are welcomed to Florida each year.

The risks of fracking in Florida outweigh any possible benefits that the industry could bring. We must not put our steadiest, revenue producing industries at terminal risk from exploratory and exploitive fracking. Fossil fuel extraction follows a boom-bust cycle that leaves communities burdened with health problems, damaged infrastructure, and a weaker economy for the long-term. Please listen to the 90 communities across the state that have passed local measures against fracking and pass the statewide ban. We must protect Florida's environment; our businesses and industries depend upon it.

Signed,

Signature

Print Name

Title

Business Name

Business City and Zip Code