

Rally opposes sale of water for hydrofracking

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Staff writer

Demonstrators gathered outside the Hall of Justice in downtown Rochester on Friday afternoon to support a legal challenge to a deal that would ship water from a Steuben County village to a hydraulic fracturing op-

eration in Pennsylvania. Protesters rallied before the case, which pits the Sierra Club against the village of Painted Post, was to be heard inside the building by State Supreme Court Justice Kenneth Fisher.

At issue is the village's agreement with a subsidiary of Shell Oil Co. to sell

up to 1 million gallons of water a day from a local aquifer for export by rail across the state line. The lawsuit seeks to annul the pact and a land lease for a water loading facility, and challenges whether the village followed proper procedures in reaching the deal.

The demonstration

drew about a half-dozen protesters, who hoisted signs that read, "Don't Sell Our Water" and "Water = Life."

Zora Gussow, 22, of Rochester, one of the organizers of the demonstration, said she believed the case had the potential to set a precedent for how local governments make

reportedly said the aquifer has the capacity to produce twice as much water as is needed for the drilling operation, and that the deal could mean an additional \$2.6 million a year in revenues for the village.

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Village officials have