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Thousands Sign Petition to Ban Fracking and Related Activities On Monroe County Properties

Rochester, Monroe County, N.Y., 10-09-12. More than four thousand petition signatures were delivered today to Monroe County Executive Maggie Brooks and members of the Legislature by supporters of the grassroots network R-CAUSE (*Rochesterians Concerned About Unsafe Shale-gas Extraction*).

The petition drive is one phase of an ongoing citizen-led campaign to bring concerns about fracking to the attention of elected County officials. The petition calls on Monroe County to prohibit natural gas and petroleum exploration and extraction and all its related activities, including fracking waste disposal on county roads, lands, treatment plants and landfills

Situated on the Utica Shale, a natural gas rich geologic formation, Monroe County owned properties require the protection in accordance with specific land and road use legislation. County lands, roads and bridges face intensive wear and tear, possible chemical spills or other accidents from heavy-duty trucks transporting fracking materials. One particular concern that must be addressed immediately is the disposal of fracking waste in Monroe County's water treatment facilities and landfills, which are not equipped to handle such toxic matter.

"The County Executive is elected to protect our health, safety and welfare, yet she would not rule out accepting toxic fracking waste, which contains hazardous chemicals, heavy metals and radioactive materials," said R-CAUSE co-founder Nedra Harvey.

"It is the County Government's obligation to prevent contamination of our water supply and protect our health and environment. The thousands of local residents who've signed our petition need these elected officials to take a stand now, before it's too late," said R-CAUSE co-founder Anna Sears.

***About R-CAUSE:** a grassroots volunteer network, co-founded in 2010 by two Rochester citizens, Anna Sears and Nedra Harvey, to network and inform as many people in the Rochester area as possible about the risks associated with high-volume, slick-water, horizontal hydraulic fracturing. R-CAUSE has held two forums that reached over 700 people, made presentations to various community groups, and developed an extensive contact list to inform people of fracking news and activities around Monroe County and beyond. They've also created the website www.r-cause.net where you can learn more about Hydraulic Fracturing.*

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