



Media Release

Monroe County Democratic Caucus

Monroe County Office Building
39 West Main Street, 4th Floor, Rm. 408
Rochester, NY 14614
P 585-753-1940 F 585-753-1946
www.democraticledger.com

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Contact: Joe Rittler Phone: 753-1910 or 409-1894

DEMOCRATS PROPOSE BAN ON FRACKING WASTEWATER

Rochester, New York – October 5, 2012. Democrats in the Monroe County Legislature today unveiled a proposed resolution that seeks to prevent wastewater from hydraulic fracturing activities, commonly referred to as fracking, from polluting Lake Ontario or other local waterways because of the potential for negative environmental and health impacts.

Beginning in March 2012, Legislator Justin Wilcox (D-Brighton) has repeatedly asked for information about the Brooks administration policy regarding the potential acceptance of fracking wastewater by the county's wastewater treatment facilities. Despite these repeated requests, the administration has not provided any official response—other than providing comments to the local media.

Due to the stonewalling of information, and the potential for serious environmental and health consequences for local bodies of water—including Lake Ontario—Legislator Wilcox is proposing a resolution that would temporarily prohibit the county from accepting fracking waste until the possible negative impacts can be ascertained.

“Elected County Legislators should be able to get a simple answer from the administration about an issue as important as this,” Legislator Wilcox said. “It is truly unfortunate that instead of acting in a bipartisan manner, they’ve chosen to stonewall and play games. Democratic members of the legislature are not willing to jeopardize our community’s health and safety for political games; the stakes are just too high. That’s why I’m proud to offer this resolution to prevent fracking wastewater from entering Lake Ontario or any other local waterways.”

The proposal has been submitted to Legislature President Jeff Adair who is responsible for assigning it to a committee for consideration.

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