Letter from Dr. Jay Saux, Oncologist

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Jay Saux, I am an oncologist in Saint Tammany Parish. I am writing to express my concern about the proposed "fracking" in our parish. I have been informed that if it is allowed to occur as many as 18,000 well caps for natural gas will be constructed across the parish. I am also told that the financial gain to individual landowners, oil and gas companies and others could be substantial.

Frankly I am more concerned about the environmental problems that occur in areas after fracking occurs. There is an attached list of chemicals used in the fracking process and those identified in drinking water after fracking has occurred. Many of the chemicals are known carcinogens (cancer causing chemicals). I have seen patients who developed cancer as a result of being exposed to some of these chemicals in the workplace. Government agencies like the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requires workers to be provided with and use protective eye gear when around thee chemicals and I am sure the oil and gas companies will provide and enforce the use of this gear for their workers during the fracking process. The risk of contamination of the environment, particularly our ground water for which our parish is famous, is terrifying. Our citizens have enough risk of developing cancer because of the genes we have inherited, our lifestyle habits, our work environment, and the area of the country in which we live, increasing that risk by exposure to additional carcinogens released into our environment by the fracking process.

Chemicals Used In Fracking

There are more than 750 chemicals used in fracking fluid. These are some of the most toxic:

2-butoxyethanol
Ethylene glycol
Methanol
Isopropyl alcohol
Benzene
Toluene
Ethylbenzene
Xylene
Sodium Hydroxide
Naphthalene
Formaldehyde
Benzyl Chloride
Cumene
Acrylamide
Acetophenone
Ethylene oxide
Propylene oxide
Sulfuric Acid
Lead
Alkyl Amine
Bisphenol A
Epichlorohydrin
Chromates
Polyacrylamides
Silica sand

Chemicals Detected in water in areas where fracking and shale development is or has occurred:

Petroleum Hydrocarbons
Chlorides
Nitrate
Sulfate
2-Butoxyethanol
2,4-bis (1-phenyl)phenol
5-Hydroxymethyl dihydrofuran
Dimethyl Phthalate
Bis(2-Ethylehexyl)Phthalate
Methanol
Ethane
Propane
Diesel Range Organics
Isopropanol
Tert-butyl alcohol
4-methyl-2-Pentanone
2-Hexanone
Phenol
Benzoic Acid
Diethylene Glycol
Triethylene Glycol
Tetraethylene Glycol
Octylphenol
Arsenic
Lead
Bromide
Strontium
Radium 226
Radium 228
Benzene
Ethylbenzene
Toluene
Xylene

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