



CUMBERLAND TIMES-NEWS

# Fracking would ruin tourism, drive residents from this area

Story

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Editor's note: This letter to Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan was released to the Times-News for publication: According to a report in the Cumberland Times-News on Jan. 13, the Md. Tourism Development Board stated that Allegany County tourism generated \$1.4 million in room and other related tourism taxes and more than 4.2 million in other fiscal year sales taxes ("Tourism proves powerful tool for Md. economy," Page 1A).

Garrett County totaled more than \$2.2 million in room taxes and \$3.1 million in related tourism sales taxes. Allegany County had a 10 percent increase from 2013 to 2014, the highest increase in tourism tax revenue in Maryland.

Since this revenue is increasing in both counties every year, why would anyone with any common sense want to ruin these beautiful places with natural gas fracking? Fracking is a short term, profit-decreasing business that will do permanent damage to our land, air, water, property values, health and population growth.

All the politicians who say they want young people to move here to start families and grow our economy and tax base should look at the big picture.

What responsible couple would want to buy property and raise their children here to live with the destruction, damage, and health dangers that fracking will cause? People will be leaving here, not settling here.

Texas is a perfect example of the long-term effects from fracking. They have had hundreds of earthquakes in their fracking areas in recent months, where before an earthquake had never occurred.

Would it really be worth destroying our beautiful counties to get the 2 percent of the United States' Marcellus Shale that is in our region? We do not want to leave our homes and our beautiful mountains and rivers. We do not want to see our property values drop, our tourism ruined and our people move away.

Please be as brave and informed as New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo and prohibit natural gas fracking in our beautiful state. He is prohibiting fracking in his large state because of unexplored health risks and dubious economic benefits.

Please show the same courage and responsibility as Gov. Cuomo has displayed and stand against the officials representing us in Annapolis and in our counties. Please admit that fracking is too dangerous and would not be good for our state.