

Ban Fracking Ballot Initiative Announces First Endorsements

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 24, 2013

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Charlevoix, Michigan – Today the Committee to Ban Fracking in Michigan announces the first round of endorsing organizations and individuals who support the Committee's ballot initiative to ban horizontal fracking and frack wastes in Michigan.

Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner **Jim Nash** endorses the campaign. Nash, an outspoken critic of fracking, has been holding public forums on horizontal fracking in communities throughout Oakland County, reaching out to residents who are worried and outraged at the harm fracking will do to their communities' quality of life and Oakland County's water.

Dr. Christopher Grobbel, of Grobbel Environmental and Planning Associates, Traverse City, is Michigan's preeminent environmental and toxic waste clean up consultant. Grobbel has been meeting with citizen groups around the state in front-line communities about to be, or already impacted by, horizontal fracking. His hard-hitting talks and power point presentations debunk what the Department of Environmental Quality is selling to the public as “facts” and he exposes the state's atrocious environmental clean up record. Grobbel, whose educational background is in environmental law and policy, once worked for the state's groundwater division putting together the list of contamination sites, and is a frequent expert witness in numerous oil and gas contamination lawsuits.

Tony Trupiano, progressive radio talk show host of the program “Nightshift” also personally endorses the campaign. Tireless in speaking out for working people, and a frequent emcee for numerous progressive causes and rallies, Tony has been called “The Voice of Labor.”

Dr. Margaret Flowers, M.D., a physician advocating for single-payer universal health care, also endorses the campaign. Flowers recently turned her attention to fracking's serious health impacts and the need for a ban on fracking. She co-authored the article “*US Climate Bomb is Ticking: What the Gas Industry Doesn't Want You to Know.*”

A list of individuals endorsing the campaign is being compiled for the Committee's website. “The people endorsing the campaign are ordinary people from all around the state, employed in many

different occupations,” said campaign director LuAnne Kozma, “including an apparel supervisor, an analyst for the State of Michigan, artists, attorneys, a bartender, a biologist for the federal government, a broker, a builder, small business owners, a carpenter, a chef, a Christmas tree farmer, a dentist, a disabled veteran, an ecologist, an educator, an elected official, an energy consultant, engineers, retired engineers, a director of a religious temple, a finance analyst, a health educator, a historic interpreter, a homemaker, a hospice worker, landscape architects, librarians, a medical librarian, a medical technologist, a mental health worker, musicians, nurses, physicians and retired physicians, professors and retired professors, a radio personality, realtors, receptionists, social workers, a speech-language pathologist, students, teachers, a tool technician, a waste management business owner, a township supervisor, a web developer, a wedding planner, a writer, and more.”

The Michigan Chamber of Commerce recently called the ballot initiative petition “dangerous” and labeled the Committee as “environmental extremists.” “We won’t put up with the fear-mongering and name-calling by the Michigan Chamber of Commerce describing Michigan voters who are standing up for democracy and the protection of our environment and public health from an extremely polluting, toxic industry,” stated Kozma.

All ballot initiatives are non-partisan. Initiatives are an electoral process guaranteed by the Michigan state constitution. The Committee to Ban Fracking in Michigan is a ballot question committee registered with the Secretary of State Bureau of Elections. The purpose of a ballot initiative is to put a vote of the people on the ballot in a statewide election.

Among the organizational endorsers are: **Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation**, which sued Nestle over public trust water issues and bottling water in Mecosta county; **Article32.org-Idle No More** (www.article32.org), a Michigan Native American grassroots group seeking to uphold the treaty rights of Native Americans to protect the environment; **Gray Panthers of Washtenaw County**, which works on issues of stewardship and protection of Great Lakes water resources, corporate control, and privatization; **Green Party of Michigan**, which champions environmental wisdom and grassroots democracy; **Kalamazoo Peace Center**; **Crawford County Peaceseekers**, a grassroots group located in the heart of fracked Michigan; **Progressive Democrat Caucus of the Michigan Democratic Party**; **North Oakland Democratic Club**; and **Natural Awakenings West Michigan**.

Endorsements will be announced periodically. To endorse the campaign, organizations, groups and individuals are urged to go to the Committee's website at: www.letsbanfracking.org and go to the Endorse page to register their support. Non-profits may endorse ballot initiatives because it is not considered lobbying to ask fellow voters to sign a petition or vote for a ballot proposal. Organizations and its members are expected to assist the campaign to gather signatures and and raise money to qualify for the ballot.

Contributions to the campaign can be made online at www.letsbanfracking.org or by check to:

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Committee to Ban Fracking in Michigan, PO Box 490, Charlevoix, MI, 49720. Contributions must include: contributor's name address, and occupation, employer name, and employer address.

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