

## Committee to Ban Fracking protests in Lansing

People from around the state in the [Committee to Ban Fracking in Michigan](#) organized a protest in Lansing on October 29 while the Michigan DNR auctioned off more acres of mineral rights to the frackers.



**TV 10 covered the event [here](#).**

The Committee is working on a ballot initiative campaign to ban fracking and frack wastes and could use your donation today! [Go here to donate](#).

And you can keep up with the ballot initiative on Facebook too:  
<https://www.facebook.com/CommitteeToBanFrackingInMichigan>

**Marathon Oil may have purchased most of the auction's acreage**

From *Michigan Oil and Gas News*, reporting on the auction:

- "Bidders believed to be representing Marathon Oil Co. dominated the Oct. 29, 2014 auction sale of state of Michigan-owned minerals at the Lansing Center, picking up more than 148,000 of the 152,629.16 acres successfully bid."
- "All but 164 of the parcels successfully bid were at the minimum \$10 per acre, which helped keep the overall average bid per acre at only \$17.15 per acre."
- "The news that Marathon Oil Co. -- founded in 1887 as the Ohio Oil Co. -- had recently completed a transaction in which it acquired Encana Oil & Gas (USA) Inc.'s Michigan asset marks the return of one of the state's oldest and most storied producer/operator after an absence of 15 years."

Below is the Committee's press release for more information about the ballot initiative:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 28, 2014

Contact: LuAnne Kozma, Committee to Ban Fracking in Michigan

(231) 944-8750 [luanne@letsbanfracking.org](mailto:luanne@letsbanfracking.org)

### **Ballot initiative to ban fracking supporters to protest in Lansing**

Charlevoix, Michigan – The Committee to Ban Fracking in Michigan, a statewide ballot initiative campaign ([www.letsbanfracking.org](http://www.letsbanfracking.org)), will gather outside the Lansing Center (in downtown Lansing) tomorrow, October 29, to protest the Michigan DNR's twice-annual auction of state-owned mineral rights. The event takes place Wednesday from 7:00 am to noon. The auction begins at 9:00 am. The Committee to Ban Fracking in Michigan is a ballot question committee that collected over 70,000 signatures in 2013 for a statewide ban on fracking and frack wastes. The Committee's proposal is not on this November's ballot. The group is working on placing it on the next statewide ballot in 2016.

"The State's role in creating more fracking starts with the DNR auction of mineral rights," said LuAnne Kozma, the Committee's campaign director. "In addition to receiving royalties from the gas and oil industry for leasing mineral rights, the State also receives income from the production of oil and gas,[1] and is required by state law to 'foster the development of the industry along the most favorable conditions,'[2] part of the current law our ballot initiative will overturn along with a ban on fracking and frack wastes."

The group cites the continued push by the frack industry, supported by the State, in approving radioactive frack sludge from other states at a waste facility in Van Buren Township in Wayne County,[3] the start of new pipelines that will bring fracked gas through the state,[4] and new natural gas plants proposed in Marquette and Gaylord. The fracking giant Encana recently sold its mineral rights to energy giant Marathon.[5]

"Nearly every day, Michiganders are facing a new threat from the frack industry as the State

government helps industry turn our beautiful state into Gasland, whether it's from radioactive frack waste or new natural gas plants. All of this industrialization is going to exacerbate climate change and health impacts," said Kozma.

The DNR will auction off more state-owned mineral rights on thousands of acres in the following counties: Arenac, Clare, Crawford, Gladwin, Grand Traverse, Ingham, Isabella, Kalkaska, Manistee, Midland, Missaukee, Montmorency, Oceana, Osceola, Presque Isle, and Roscommon.

Public notice about the auction

here:[http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/ProposedPubNotice\\_464073\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/ProposedPubNotice_464073_7.pdf)

Michigan DNR site about the auction here:

[http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-10368\\_11800-169044--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-10368_11800-169044--,00.html)

Committee to Ban Fracking in Michigan's brochure here:

[http://www.letsbanfracking.org/images/CBFM%20 2014 brochure with%20links FINAL.pdf](http://www.letsbanfracking.org/images/CBFM%202014%20brochure%20with%20links%20FINAL.pdf)

###

[1] MCL 205.303

[2] MCL 324.61502

[3] Series of articles at [www.banmichiganfracking.org](http://www.banmichiganfracking.org): <http://banmichiganfracking.org/?p=2455>

[4] Detroit Free Press, "Rival Projects Compete for OK to Build Gas Pipelines," October 12, 2014. <http://www.freep.com/story/money/business/columnists/tom-walsh/2014/10/12/tom-walsh-dueling-pipelines/17046379/>

[5] Midland Daily News, "Fracking Michigan, Here We Go Again," October 13, 2014. [http://www.ourmidland.com/opinion/editorials/fracking-michigan---here-we-go-again/article\\_69726cb9-a734-5afd-90f2-3c60f424263c.html](http://www.ourmidland.com/opinion/editorials/fracking-michigan---here-we-go-again/article_69726cb9-a734-5afd-90f2-3c60f424263c.html)