New ban fracking ballot initiative takes on climate change

A new ballot initiative kicked off this weekend to ban horizontal hydraulic fracturing and frack wastes in Michigan. The Committee to Ban Fracking in Michigan starts collecting signatures from Michigan voters April 12 for a six-month period. People around the state are joining the campaign to volunteer to gather signatures and educating friends, neighbors and fellow voters of the drastic environmental and health impacts of fracking, and why we need to ban this planet-warming practice.

The ballot language takes on the issue of global climate change and Michigan's contribution to it. Embedded in Michigan's compiled laws is language that compels the state, through the Department of Environmental Quality, to "foster the industry" and "maximize production" of oil and gas. The ballot proposal eliminates this language catering to the special interests of oil and gas companies and its place, adds new language that would make the State consider protection of human health and water in its oil and gas decisions.

VIDEO by Physicians, Scientists and Engineers for Healthy Energy: Fracking for natural gas is not helping climate change, it's making it worse

http://youtu.be/o78j77I7XUw
Dr. Tony Ingraffea, the renown scientist from Cornell University, also takes on the connection between fracking for natural gas and climate change in a new video by Physicians, Scientists and Engineers for Healthy Energy. He says that fracking for natural gas is the worst type of energy that is advancing global climate change. The connection between fracking for natural gas and climate change is methane leakage. Methane **is** natural gas. Methane is a much more potent greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide.

> "Shale gas is not the cleanest, not the 'least worst' of all the fossil fuels, **it's the dirtiest, it's the worst.** So any transfer of using coal or oil to natural gas is going in the wrong direction. It's not helping climate change, it's making it worse."--*Dr. Tony Ingraffea*

Later in the video, Dr. Ingraffea introduces the recent scientific report from Stanford University, "Examining the feasibility of converting New York State's all-purpose energy structure to one using wind, water, and sunlight."

Instead we get FRACKTOPIA?

A study like this for Michigan, spelling out how we can switch to 100% renewable energy, would give us, our children and future generations a fighting chance for a livable planet. What do we have instead? University of Michigan academics who cater to industry and do a "study" (translation: politically-driven committee report) with the stated goal of seeking to minimize the damage of fracking (but accepting it nonetheless). See the upcoming "fracking town hall," "Fracktopia" by U of M this April 16 in Ann Arbor.