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Please keep your letter under 300 words (one page).

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Exposing duplicity

Northern Express's fracking article portraying Don't Frack Michigan's JoAnne Beemon, both protesting and part of the press conference supporting the bills, exposes the duplicity of this group.

One may have the impression that Ms.

Beemon of Don't Frack Michigan (DFM) was there to protest the bills. That would be mistaken. Ms. Beemon was there to show support for the bills with DFM's sign as a part of the press conference. After Rep. Mark Meadows' team asked her to take it down as to not confuse the message, she did so.

She then joined the press conference with Meadows' campaign signs. Another board member, Bill Henne, did too. That's because Ms. Beemon worked behind the scenes writing the bills and was invited to participate in the conference and bring a sign, without some of Don't Frack Michigan's board's knowledge. She explained later "dissent etiquette" was "tricky." She now lobbies the board heavily to support the bills and celebrates groups that do.

The bills would initiate a DEQ and DNR study funded by the gas industry, a fracking panel to recommend conditions on permits and regulations, and make frackers use the Water Withdrawal Assessment Tool. That already is being done but ignored when frack well permits fail the test and get approved anyway.

I helped found Don't Frack Michigan.

I resigned this week in protest of this deceptive, co-opted group. It claims to want to ban fracking, while wanting to compromise on trickster, pro-gas bills like this, or at best, continue remaining ambiguous and duplicitous.

I challenge Don't Frack Michigan to stand on a frack berm and hold the frackstudy-funded-by-gas industry's campaign signs, and only those signs, if it thinks they will lead to a ban.

Hopefully people wanting to protect the environment and human health from fracking can see through the facade.

LuAnne Kozma • Novi

School czar unneeded

Gov. Snyder has appointed John Covington chairman of a corporation to serve as the Chancellor of Michigan Education Achievement Authority to manage troubled schools in the Detroit Public School system and throughout Michigan.

Covington will be paid \$1.5 million, including a \$175,000 signing bonus, to be the CEO of this private corporation called Michigan Education Achievement Authority.

Covington has announced that they now have the capacity to take control of schools that educate more than 100,000 students statewide, making it the state's largest school district.

The legislature has restricted school funds for 2011 and 2012, diverting funds intended by the voters for K-12 education to higher education, while passing funds previously paid to higher education to business tax cuts.

Desperate for funding due to these cuts, our schools will be required to file plans to balance their budgets below the cost of doing business, e.g. Bellaire. The local schools will then be vulnerable to the takeover by being assigned to this Authority. Have we lost our common sense?

Why have we allowed the Michigan Legislature, led by Gov. Snyder, to subject our schools to this type of forced take over by a statewide czar?