

By amending HB 507 and working to sign it into law – you have been bad – VERY BAD!

Today is Christmas, and Santa is very sad and disappointed along with thousands of Ohioans that you would amend HB 507 to accelerate the fracking of Ohio's state lands, sacrificing the public trust and parks like Salt Fork for future generations. You must have listened to industry lobbyists like the Ohio Oil and Gas Association without effort to research the harms of fracking. If you had, you would have realized that fracking not only contaminates air and water, it destroys billions of gallons of precious freshwater forever, creating a toxic legacy of millions of tons of radioactive waste that is being disposed of without necessary traceability, regulation and oversight so that what remains of Appalachia Ohio's precious freshwater is also threatened. How would you know before it is too late that injection wells have leaked into coal mines and ground water, spilling into soil and surface water? How will that be cleaned up, especially with the unknown, proprietary chemicals that are being used, including PFAS chemicals? But that is not a problem for the numerous LLC's who have populated the state and can declare bankruptcy when the magnitude of the pollution becomes known, once again forcing clean up costs upon the taxpayer, IF the remediation and the permanent closure of fracked wells is even possible.

In a rush to add the amendment in lame duck session without public testimony, you obviously didn't do the necessary research into the GHG impacts and harms of fracking, especially in Ohio, which has become the frack waste dumping ground of choice for other states. The revenue from frack waste processing and disposal pales in comparison to the projected future costs this industry will incur. If you would just google the Compendium of Scientific, Medical, and Media Findings Demonstrating Risks and Harms of Fracking and Associated Gas and Oil Infrastructure, you would immediately see research validating the 16 reasons why fracking should never have been given the exemptions to important environmental regulations (called the Halliburton Loophole). That along with greed and industry lobbyists and propaganda have created serious problems:

"1) Regulations are incapable of preventing harm, 2) Idle and abandoned wells are a significant source of methane leakage, 3) Fracking is accelerating the climate crisis, 4) Fracking contaminates and depletes drinking water resources, 5) Fracking creates air pollution at levels known to harm health, 6) Public health problems associated with fracking include prenatal harm, respiratory impacts, cancer, heart disease, mental health problems and premature death, 7) Health and safety risks for workers are severe and employment promises unrealized, 8) Fracking and the injection of fracking waste cause earthquakes, 9) Fracking waste disposal is a problem without a solution, 10) Fracking infrastructure poses exposure risks to those living nearby, 11) Drilling and fracking activities release radioactivity, 12) Drilling and fracking activities harm wildlife, 13) The economic instabilities of fracking exacerbate public health risks, 14) The social costs of fracking are severe, 15) Fracking violates principles of environmental justice and human rights, 16) Carbon capture and storage fails to mitigate the dangers of fracking." (Compendium)

You have been used by the fracking industry to pass legislation to call fracked gas green, which has been shown to be dirtier than coal, sacrificing our state lands and broadening the damage to the environment and public health in regions in which fracking and frack waste dumping take place. Santa cannot understand why you would bow to oil and gas industry pressures in the days of climate change knowing the harms of fracking. Santa and thousands of Ohioans will never forget what you did, and some day, there will be accountability for this unwarranted act to sacrifice public lands with your name forever on the Naughty List. With great sadness and disappointment,

