

July 10, 2014

Acting Health Commissioner Howard A. Zucker
New York State Department of Health
Corning Tower
Empire State Plaza
Albany, NY 12237



Dear Acting Health Commissioner Zucker,

On behalf of Concerned Health Professionals of New York, we would greatly appreciate the opportunity to meet with you about the health impacts of unconventional natural gas extraction via high-volume hydraulic fracturing (fracking) and the Department of Health's ongoing review. We have studied this issue for several years and would like to discuss the significant and rapidly growing body of scientific, medical and media findings demonstrating risks and harms associated with fracking.

Please see the attached compendium, which is designed to present this information in an informative manner that is accessible to public officials, researchers, journalists and the public at large. It covers fifteen compelling topics that emerge in reviewing the data, starting with sections on some of the most acute threats - air pollution and water contamination - and ending with numerous medical and scientific calls for more study and transparency. Our examination of the peer-reviewed medical and public health literature uncovered no evidence that fracking can be practiced in a manner that does not threaten human health.

We were pleased that the New York State Assembly overwhelmingly passed a three-year moratorium on fracking - citing the concerns readily apparent in the scientific literature and the need for more study - following our May 29th letter.¹ But ultimately it is your Department that carries the responsibility for making a scientifically informed recommendation that ensures protection of public health and safety. Based on the knowledge available to us now, we believe that fracking would pose significant threats to the air, water, health and safety of New Yorkers and that your recommendation must also be for a statewide moratorium of at least three to five years.

We are happy to make ourselves available to meet at your convenience. Please contact Dr. Larysa Dyrszka to schedule the meeting. Thank you for your time and your work.

Sincerely,

Michelle Bamberger, MS, DVM, Veterinarian and Researcher
Sheila Bushkin-Bedient, MD, MPH
Larysa Dyrszka, MD
Kathleen Nolan, MD, MSL, Pediatrician and Bioethicist
Robert Oswald, PhD, Professor of Molecular Medicine at Cornell University
Sandra Steingraber, PhD, Distinguished Scholar in Residence at Ithaca College

¹ Concerned Health Professionals of NY. (2014, May 29). Letter to Governor Cuomo and acting Health Commissioner Zucker. Available at: <http://concernedhealthny.org/letters-to-governor-cuomo/>.