

PEI Watershed Alliance
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Hon. Janice Sherry
Minister of Environment, Labour and Justice
Fourth Floor, Shaw Building South
95 Rochford Street
P.O. Box 2000
Charlottetown, PE C1A 7N8

December 6, 2013

Dear Minister Sherry,

We thank you and your government for the recent expression of support for Island watershed groups that was shown in the Provincial Legislature. As the organization representing those watershed groups on matters of provincial scope, the PEI Watershed Alliance has an important issue about which we wish to express our grave concern.

As you are aware, the Standing Committee on Agriculture, Environment, Energy and Forestry recently recommended that the government declare a moratorium on high volume hydraulic fracturing on Prince Edward Island. This matter is of great concern to our watershed groups. We believe that the reasons given in the report of the committee are compelling, and we fully support this recommendation. The huge volume of water needed for this form of gas extraction, the volume of industrial waste produced, along with the near certainty of our aquifer being contaminated, are reasons enough for a permanent moratorium. As PEI is 100% dependent on groundwater for our drinking water, the risks are too high. There are, of course, many other reasons that the government should enact this moratorium - including air pollution, extensive road damage, the unsuitability of our soft sandstone, damage to the tourism industry, and potential damage to our fishing and farming industries, not to mention the effect on the quality of life of Islanders.

A permanent moratorium on high volume hydraulic fracturing would be specific to this particular type of drilling, which is unacceptably damaging, and such a moratorium would not preclude other types of energy exploration or other development. The PEI Watershed Alliance feels very strongly that enacting a permanent moratorium would send out a positive message that we are a Green Province, that we are open for further renewable energy development, and that we are serious about trying to combat climate change – which is set to hit our province harder than any other.

The PEI Watershed Alliance would like to go on record as fully supporting the efforts of the community group Don't Frack PEI, and we recommend their website to you and members of your staff as a place to find further information about hydraulic fracturing and what is going on in other jurisdictions. We hope your government is ready to act on this issue and declare a complete moratorium on high volume hydraulic fracturing (fracking) on PEI

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Andrew Lush, Director
PEI Watershed Alliance

cc:

Shauna Sullivan Curley, Q.C., Deputy Minister
Jim Young, Director, Environment
Hon. Wesley Sheridan, Minister of Energy
Wayne MacQuarrie, Director, Energy & Minerals