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Contact: Katie Sulau, 734.222.9650 or katie@michiganlcv.org

Clear Fixes To Make Fracking Safer Warrant Action
Feedback on technical reports lays out practical steps to protect clean water

ANN ARBOR --- Michigan LCV joined with the Michigan Environmental Council, Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council, Alliance for the Great Lakes, Natural Resources Defense Council and the National Wildlife Federation to highlight clear fixes to fill holes in clean water protections in response to the Graham Institute's Hydraulic Fracturing Technical Reports. Statewide regulations are not keeping pace with the scale of fracking operations in Michigan, or the threats those operations pose to our state's clean water. In formal comments submitted to the University of Michigan's Graham Institute, the groups called for a number of new regulatory proposals to be evaluated as the Institute continues to conduct a study of hydraulic fracturing in Michigan.

The proposed regulations include full, public chemical disclosure before a well is in operation, and the elimination of loopholes in statute that make it possible for oil and gas companies to bypass the state's Water Withdrawal Assessment Tool to evaluate impacts on nearby watersheds.

"The technical reports rightfully point out that the fracking taking place in Michigan today is not your grandfather's fracking," said Jack Schmitt, Deputy Director for Michigan LCV. "Now that we know that fracking poses unprecedented threats to our state's most valued natural resource, we need to take action and rein in our regulations immediately."

Areas in Northern Michigan are already seeing multiple high-volume fracking wells proposed and drilled, and consequently, sizable drains on water supplies. In their comments, the groups suggested policy changes that would require oil and gas companies to be more efficient and judicious with the water they do use in fracking wells, and go through additional impact analysis where water supplies are especially sensitive.

"The changes we are suggesting level the playing field and ensure that Michigan's Great Lakes and thousands of miles of rivers and streams are protected from possible chemical contamination due to hydraulic fracturing operations," Schmitt said. "These are practical steps that we need to move forward on today, before Michigan water resources are placed at risk by new oil and gas operations that mix millions more gallons of water with toxic chemicals."

[Click here to read the groups' comments on technical reports on fracking.](#)

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