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January 8, 2010

Governor David A. Paterson
State Capitol
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Governor Paterson,

I am writing to you to express my concern with the possibility of high volume hydraulic fracturing in low permeability shales, including Marcellus and Utica, as described in the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's (NYSDEC) proposed draft Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement for oil, gas, and solution mining in New York State. I am asking for you to impose a moratorium on hydraulic fracturing (hydro-fracking) until the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) can complete its study on the impacts to drinking water from hydro-fracking.

In the FY 2010 Interior Appropriations bill, Congress requested that the EPA undertake a large-scale study of the impacts to drinking water from hydro-fracking. I am writing to request that you give the EPA time to complete this study to increase scientific understanding of the impacts of hydro-fracking on our nation's drinking water sources before allowing it to occur in New York. Furthermore, this study can guide regulatory safeguards to protect public health, private and public property, and my district's most abundant natural resource, fresh water.

The Syracuse area, along with the City of New York, has a Filtration Avoidance Determination from the EPA. Our community has extensive and effective pollution prevention efforts which are funded and implemented by federal, state, municipal, academic and private partners to protect the purity of Skaneateles Lake. Syracuse's drinking water flows to the City by the power of gravity, and the filtration avoidance determination spares Syracuse city residents from increased costs from investing expensive drinking water filtration and treatment plants. Syracuse currently needs \$1 billion for water infrastructure projects, and our upstate city cannot bear the burden of incurring additional costs.

In addition, my district is home to other Finger Lakes, inland lakes, rivers, streams, and 100 miles of Lake Ontario shoreline and bluffs. My district is also home to Onondaga Lake, once famed among the nation's "most polluted lakes," and after a century of abuse, almost \$1 billion will be invested to restore water quality, ecology and remediate mercury and other toxins. I am acutely aware of the fragility of our freshwater and the economic impact of destroying a

community's freshwater resource, as well as time and expense that must be invested for clean-up. Therefore, as you can imagine, the health of this water is of utmost importance to me and I am committed to protecting New York's freshwater.

In light of the potential problems from hydro-fracking I am asking you to impose a moratorium on hydro-fracking in New York State until the EPA's drinking water study can be completed. If you have any questions about my request please feel free to contact Jillian Martin at jillian.martin@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan Maffei". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Daniel B. Maffei
Member of Congress