

## **LWVO State House Day - March 7, 2017**

### **OIL AND GAS PRODUCTION/FRACKING**

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LWVO advocacy is based on the proposition that gas and oil production should be carried out with the minimum amount of environmental damage and the maximum protection of public health and safety. Clean water and clean air are important to us. We particularly believe that all of the information about chemicals used in the process should be readily available to the public. We value the citizens' right to know.

Hydraulic fracturing (fracking) has become a highly political issue in Ohio, as well as other states where this process occurs. In January, Governor Kasich signed into law a rule forbidding local communities to ban fracking (the same restriction applies to wind farms, a form of energy known as "renewable").

Health concerns have been raised regarding fracking related to contaminated air and water. Contamination occurs from methane migration, chemical spills, leaks from waste-water holding pits, and radioactive elements brought up from fracking, which occurs deep underground. In addition to methane, other volatile organic compounds, such as benzene, may be released in fracking, which often causes human exposure, resulting in nose bleeds, skin irritation, and/or fatigue. These air contaminants have been linked to childhood and adult asthma. With the change in the US administration, we may lose many Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) rules that protect us from pollution as well as the Clean Power Plan that fights climate change.

The last piece of fracking legislation to pass was a slight rule modification contained in the budget two years ago. A bill to re-impose the fracking ban in state parks died in committee last year. Five years ago LWVO opposed legislation lifting the ban and is pleased that the Governor has not issued any fracking permits in state parks.