

GOAT Noat for December: Environmental issues in upcoming legislative session

The Maryland Assembly will convene on January 11, 2017. Two environmental issues will be of primary importance. Here are actions to take now and there will be more during the legislative session.

1. **Override the Veto of the Clean Energy Jobs Act (HB 1106/SB 921).** This bill increases Maryland's clean electricity standard – wind and solar – to 25% by 2020 and creates a dedicated clean energy jobs and business development program. **It passed the General Assembly** by large margins then **Governor Hogan vetoed it.** Learn more and **email your legislators** to support the override: http://org.salsalabs.com/o/423/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action_KEY=20529. This summer's bike ride across Maryland by Jamie and Vinnie DeMarco was in support of overriding this veto.
2. **Permanent ban on fracking in Maryland.** The **moratorium** on hydraulic fracturing, aka fracking, in Maryland **expires in October 2017.** **Governor Hogan supports fracking** while 56% of Maryland registered voters oppose it. **State Senator Joan Carter Conway**, chair of the Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee, **has previously not supported a ban.** Evidence is mounting that hydraulic fracturing, aka fracking, worsens climate change and leads to polluted air and water, serious health problems, and economic losses for communities. Learn more and **sign a petition** supporting a permanent ban on fracking in Maryland: http://org.salsalabs.com/o/423/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action_KEY=18084

For more information speak with John McKusick, Gary Gillespie, Carol Beck, Kevin-Douglas Olive, or Polly Heninger of the Green Organizing/Action Team (GOAT).