

## GOAT Noat for May 2017

**Maryland has a permanent ban on fracking – we won!** Governor Hogan signed the bill into law on April 4. On March 10, the House of Delegates passed the fracking ban bill with a 70% majority. On March 16, thirteen Marylanders, including three Homewood members, were arrested in an act of civil disobedience on the steps of the State House. The very next day, in a surprising move, the governor said he would sign a bill if it came to his desk. This removed Sen. Joan Carter Conway's excuse of needing a veto-proof majority to let it out of her committee. The committee voted 8-3 in support of a ban and the full Senate yielded a 75% majority in favor. This is the most environmentally significant bill that Maryland has passed.

Our work paid off. Thank you to everyone who participated in phone calls, an in-person visit with Sen. Conway, rallies, canvassing, civil disobedience, letters, and the many other actions that were part of this campaign. We can now shift our focus – whether to energy efficiency, renewable energy, environmental and social justice, or something else – only time will tell.

For more information contact John McKusick, Gary Gillespie, Carol Beck, or Polly Heninger of the Green Organizing/Action Team (GOAT).