

December 9, 2009

Governor David Paterson
Executive Chamber
New York State Capital
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Paterson:

I am writing to request a further extension of the public comment period for the dSGEIS on gas drilling in the Marcellus Shale. Though the DEC extended the comment period from 30 days to 60 days on September 30, 2009, and to 90 days on November 4th, I am repeating my call of October 13th that we need a 180-day comment period. While I was hoping we could manage to adequately respond to the dSGEIS within the 90-day time period, it has become clear to me that more time is needed by the several environmental groups and scientific entities that are working feverishly to have appropriate and necessary studies done to respond to the dSGEIS and to make sure that drilling in the Marcellus Shale does not do permanent, irreversible damage to our environment, especially our water.

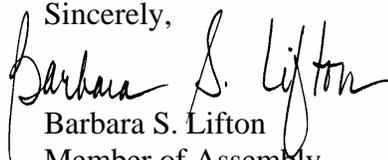
As you well know, the oil and gas drilling industry has had a spotty record in many other states, including Colorado, Texas and Pennsylvania, with inadequate enforcement regimens in all those places, resulting in explosions, ruined wells and serious health problems from exposure to toxic substances released during oil and gas operations.

As information continues to be gathered and studies done, it is now clear that the deadline is looming too closely. As you know, and thanks to your assistance, we are in a public comment period regarding the new truck regulations. In spite of the fact that those regs are just a few pages long and much simpler than the more technical and complicated 809 page dSGEIS, the trucking industry has been successful in getting two extensions, extending that comment period to over 90 days. Surely 180 days should be afforded to public comment regarding natural gas drilling, the most important environmental issue in our state in a generation, I believe.

I have also sent you my testimony with many concerns reflecting those of my constituents and some of the concerns of the scientific community as well.

I appreciate your giving consideration to this very important request.

Sincerely,



Barbara S. Lifton
Member of Assembly
125th District

BSL/lfs