

## **Dear Friends and Fracktivists,**

The past year has seen a big increase in the number of place-based activist groups responding to the particular harms that the fracking industry poses in their communities: water withdrawals, hazardous wastes, gas storage, pipelines, compressor stations etc. While these groups are of necessity doing outreach on “local issues” they are also concluding that “their” issue will not be regulated into harmlessness: only an **ABSOLUTE BAN** on the whole fracking industry—in their locales and statewide—will truly deal with the threat they are facing.

Grassroots BAN Activists have, for more than a year, been talking about building coalitions, that we might enjoy greater visibility/effect in our dispersed efforts, and make our number and reach tangible. Anti-fracking coalitions have come and gone, but none have drawn a bright line between strategies for achieving an **ABSOLUTE BAN ON FRACKING** and those that promote regulatory solutions. Nor between efforts controlled by national and state NGOs and those controlled by the grassroots groups themselves.

CDOG—which has for years called for an **ABSOLUTE BAN ON FRACKING**—initiated efforts to empower that demand: when it launched its 2008 BAN petition and the AlbanyGasBanRally listserv of online-petition subscribers; through the creation of the [gasmain.org](http://gasmain.org) portal to local pro-BAN organizations; the day-long Ban Conference in February 2011; and launching two statewide days of action, in June and September of 2011. In all of these efforts, our goal has been to support dispersed activism and locally originated actions in pursuit of local and statewide bans.

Now we would like to invite you and your local grassroots group to join a statewide alliance specifically created to promote our shared goal of an **ABSOLUTE BAN ON FRACKING**.

## **NY GRASS**

The **New York Grass Roots Alliance to Save our State.**

(Please see the GRASS principles statement,)

### **Who is being invited to join:**

- Groups** or individuals that are truly grassroots, volunteer efforts;
- Groups that do not have paid staff or political party affiliations;
- Groups or individuals that support an **ABSOLUTE BAN ON FRACKING** and/or its criminalization

### **How we will operate:**

Transparently and by consensus, with all member groups having equal say.

### **What we hope to do:**

- Make the power / demands of the grassroots / as visible and regarded as that of the NGOs.
- Help small place-based groups to obtain **ABSOLUTE BANS** locally and statewide.
- Share information, calendars, documents and news effectively
- Strategize on collective actions for greater effect

### **What we will not do:**

- Ask you to change your beliefs, agenda, distinct goals or actions;
- Ask for your email lists;
- Ask for monetary contributions.

**Individuals or groups may register. Whether or not you decide to sign on right now, we hope you will join us for a face-to-face meeting in Binghamton on June 23rd to discuss how we will organize ourselves, communicate, and create joint actions and visibility. Suggested agenda items are welcomed.**



NY GRASS

## Grass Roots Alliance to Save our State

Proposed: Create an alliance of grass-roots activists to achieve an **ABSOLUTE BAN ON FRACKING**.

Member organizations in the **Grass Roots Alliance** join together to increase their presence and effectiveness in an arena where large, well-funded organizations tend to dominate. We advocate for an **ABSOLUTE BAN ON FRACKING** rather than acquiesce to the regulatory system.

While the member organizations of this Alliance may differ on tactics or strategies to achieve an **ABSOLUTE BAN ON FRACKING** in our cities, towns, counties and in our state, together we affirm that:

1. **We believe in democracy.** The legitimacy of our demands for an **ABSOLUTE BAN ON FRACKING** and for self-governance is grounded in our rights as citizens.
2. **We stand united.** We will not save one group or area at the expense of others. We advocate only for an **ABSOLUTE BAN ON FRACKING** that protects *all* people, communities and locales.
3. **We will not compromise.** Temporary moratoriums, or stays by the executive branch, are not enough. We insist on an **ABSOLUTE BAN ON FRACKING**, assured by legislation.
4. **We will not negotiate harm.** Only an **ABSOLUTE BAN ON FRACKING** will protect our health and safety. We do not accept the damage of “mitigation” approved by unelected regulatory agencies.
5. **We will not be co-opted.** We choose to represent ourselves, and will not be represented by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that compromise our insistence on an **ABSOLUTE BAN ON FRACKING**.
6. **We are the turning point.** We understand that our drive to an **ABSOLUTE BAN ON FRACKING** is part of a difficult and necessary transition to a sustainable, renewable energy economy.



## NY GRASS

### Grass Roots Alliance to Save our State

Signed on to date:

**Andes Works!**

**CDOG** Chenango Delaware Otsego Gas Drilling Opposition

**CEEC** Citizens Energy & Economic Council of Delaware County

**CPNY** Coalition to Protect New York

**Friends of Brook Park**

**Friends of Sustainable Sidney**

**Green City Challenge**

**Neighborhood Energy Network/ Tristate Food Not Lawns**

**New York Climate Action Group**

**New York Contra el Gasoducto**

**Sane Energy Project**

**Youth Now Activist Network**

**We the World/WE campaign**

To join the Alliance, please email us back with this information:

\_\_\_\_\_ Group Membership *OR* \_\_\_\_\_ Individual Membership

Your /Your Group's name \_\_\_\_\_

Group Representative \_\_\_\_\_

Representative's email address \_\_\_\_\_

Representative's phone number \_\_\_\_\_