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At Christie Event, Locals Protest Governor's Failure to Ban Fracking and Frack Waste Disposal

Protest is the first of many to take place over coming months to remind governor of residents' deep opposition to practices that threaten drinking water contamination and public health disasters

West Orange, NJ: Concerned community members joined with consumer, environmental, labor and faith leaders today at the Turtle Back Zoo, where Governor Christie was holding a public event, to express to the governor their deep opposition to fracking and fracking waste disposal in the state. They called on Christie to ban such practices immediately, and made it clear that residents intend to follow him whenever and wherever he goes until he enacts the bans.

"Governor Christie's inaction is the sole reason fracking still threatens the health and safety of New Jersey families. A true environmental leader would champion clean air and water rather than expose Jersey residents to toxic fracking waste and place fossil fuel industry profits over the health and wellbeing of our communities," said **Jim Walsh, New Jersey Director, Food & Water Watch.**

The action came on the heels of a US Geological Survey report showing up to 1.6 trillion cubic feet of gas could be fracked throughout central and northern New Jersey. Revelations of fracking waste being imported into New Jersey were brought forward in 2011. Meanwhile, the Fracking Waste Ban Bill would protect residents by banning the disposal, treatment and discharge of toxic waste created through the process of fracking, a highly controversial natural gas drilling method. The legislation passed with overwhelming bipartisan support last year but was vetoed by the governor.

"There is no issue that threatens our drinking water more than fracking. The threat of fracking waste being dumped in our waterways puts us all at risk. Governor Christie needs to stand up for clean water for the people of New Jersey and stop his opposition to the fracking waste bill. He should stop blocking Republican legislators from voting to override the bill, then it would pass overwhelmingly. He needs to stop siding with the Big Oil and Gas companies and instead do his job and protect our waterways," said **Jeff Tittel, Director, NJ Sierra Club.**

The impact of fracking is already hitting New Jersey as activists at the rally spoke about a compressor station that is moving toward completion later this year. The compressor station will be used to handle the increased capacity of natural gas that is resulting from fracking in Pennsylvania.

"Fracking is affecting NJ residents already. Residents of Roseland and East Hanover overwhelmingly oppose the planned operations of a dangerous gas compressor station being built there. In addition, people living close to a 50-year-old gas pipeline in 15 towns in northern New Jersey face the risk of explosions and fires if the pressure is increased, as is planned for that Northeast Supply Link operation. Joe D and Governor Christie should do the right thing and publicly oppose these plans, which could happen as early as this November," said **Ted Glick, Coordinator, Essex/Passaic Green Party.**

"Governor Christie is ignoring the public health and environmental risks he is exposing us to by allowing toxic frack waste to be dumped in New Jersey. By vetoing legislation that would prevent the pollution that fracking and frack waste causes, the Governor is strong arming our legislators to let the oil and gas giants have their way. We don't need - can't tolerate - any more pollution in New Jersey so we are showing up where he goes to let him know we're not going to take this lying down", said **Tracy Carluccio, Deputy Director, Delaware Riverkeeper Network.**

"The Governor's concrete actions to date don't measure up to the rhetoric you'll hear from him today. He needs to focus less on his next political promotion and more on his current job; not just educating the next generation, but protecting the current one and generations to come. We need him to be part of the clean energy solution, rather than being part of the problem. Fracking and other dirty energy sources are creating climate disruption, putting people in harm's way, and making them sick," said **Dave Pringle, Campaign Director, New Jersey Environmental Federation.**

This rapid response action was coordinated by members of CWA Local 1081, Essex/Passaic Green Party, Delaware Riverkeeper Network, Franciscan Response to Fracking, Food & Water Watch, NJ Environmental Federation, and NJ Sierra Club