



August 24, 2012

Sheila Nevins
President, Documentary and Family Programming
Home Box Office, Inc.
1100 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10036

Dear Ms. Nevins,

Later this year, Mr. Josh Fox – director of the movie *Gasland*, which was broadcast on HBO – will be releasing a sequel, *Gasland 2*. Based on media reports and statements from Mr. Fox himself, the film will be shown on HBO and broadcast to millions of viewers.

As you are probably aware, *Gasland* created a great deal of controversy, due in large part to questionable assertions and claims contained in the movie. Shortly after the release of *Gasland*, Energy In Depth highlighted many of the inaccuracies and factual distortions in the film (see enclosure: “**Debunking GasLand**”).

We are concerned, given Mr. Fox’s repeating in public forums of the claims he made in *Gasland* (despite clear evidence showing them to be false), that the content of *Gasland 2* will suffer from similar flaws. For that reason, Energy In Depth recently sent a letter to Mr. Fox recommending the inclusion in *Gasland 2* of several important facts about hydraulic fracturing and the development of natural gas, many of which directly contradict the information he presented in the original film. A copy of that letter is attached (see enclosure: “**Recommendations for Gasland 2**”).

While HBO’s programming decisions are the exclusive right of HBO itself, we encourage you to examine the breadth of evidence – compiled by scientists, state and federal regulators, and independent experts – affirming that hydraulic fracturing is a safe and proven technology, and that the development of oil and natural gas from shale is a tightly-regulated and well-understood process.

For example: Mr. Fox’s central claim in *Gasland* was that hydraulic fracturing contaminates groundwater. But earlier this year, U.S. EPA administrator Lisa Jackson stated publicly: “In no case have we made a definitive determination that [hydraulic fracturing] has caused chemicals to enter groundwater.” In fact, the emblematic scene in *Gasland* – when a Colorado resident ignites his tap water – has been refuted directly by state regulators who concluded the methane was “not attributable” to oil and gas development (then-director of the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission, Dave Neslin, offered to speak with Mr. Fox on camera during the filming of *Gasland*, but Mr. Fox declined). Colorado’s current governor, John Hickenlooper (D), said earlier this year: “We can’t find anywhere in Colorado a single example of [hydraulic fracturing] that has polluted groundwater.”

A documentary is by definition a factual report, which means it is neither politically- nor agenda-driven. Although we are hopeful that Mr. Fox will include our recommendations, his active participation in rallies and other events urging bans on hydraulic fracturing – all since the release of *Gasland* – leads us to believe that *Gasland 2* will not be an objective presentation of the facts, but rather a narrative that works backwards from a preordained conclusion – the complete opposite of what your subscribers would expect when tuning in to watch an HBO documentary.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lee O. Fuller". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Lee O. Fuller
Executive Director
Energy In Depth

Enclosures (2)

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