



### Cuomo's Fracking Ban: 'Junk Science' and 'Political Theater'

After six years of feet dragging, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo made a decision last week to continue a moratorium on high-volume hydraulic fracturing in the state. Below is a snapshot of the overwhelmingly critical response to Governor Cuomo's political decision.

**"Far from identifying any concrete harm** that properly regulated drilling would cause to health or the environment, the [New York Health] report mostly catalogued **hypothetical perils** that have yet to be credibly documented by research.... **Fracking has one proven effect. It creates jobs, a commodity desperately needed upstate.**" – [New York Daily News](#)

**"[A]ll of the Governor's men couldn't find conclusive evidence that fracking presents a significant risk to public health or the environment.** So they're going to ban fracking until they do. The truth is that fracking has been taking place around the country for many years **without evidence of environmental harm.** Even the federal Environmental Protection Agency, which desperately wants to find it, has uncovered no credible evidence that fracking causes groundwater contamination." – [Wall Street Journal](#)

**"Bowling to green activists and the Hollywood crowd,** Cuomo on Wednesday made New York the only one of 35 states with significant natural-gas deposits to ban fracking... **[T]he health and environmental concerns Cuomo cites fly in the face of findings from multiple other studies,** including one by the Obama Department of Energy..." – [New York Post](#)

"Anyone who cares about the economic viability of New York State should be troubled by these two decisions. It is fracking — despite risks — that has the potential to boost struggling communities, by providing well-paying, middle-class jobs. Casinos, meanwhile, are a road to nowhere. **The Cuomo administration got it exactly backward.**" - Joe Nocera, [New York Times](#)

**"Energy is critical to civilization, so Gov. Andrew Cuomo banned a major technology vital to its production...** Cuomo's stated reason for banning fracking involved health concerns, although state regulators exist in order to minimize such risks. In this case, though, they weren't interested in trying." – [Denver Post](#)

**"New York just gave Vladimir Putin and the Middle Eastern energy sheikhs an early Christmas present...** So much for the Empire State's boastful claim that 'New York is open for business.'" – [Washington Times](#)

"Either way, New Yorkers will continue to enjoy lower prices for gasoline and continue to switch from heating oil to cheaper natural gas – both of which are the product of fracking. Cuomo's decision to ban fracking simply underscores the point that New Yorkers remain blissfully oblivious to the tradeoffs they make every day when it comes to energy. No wonder my head hurts when I go there." – Loren Steffy, [Forbes](#)

“Apparently, the state health commissioner Dr. Howard Zucker believes ‘We lack the necessary data.’ **This is a copout** used all too often ... and is especially odd given the **increasing number of studies that have supported fracking if well regulated.**” – Michael Lynch, [Forbes](#)

“**I don’t want to do what New York did.** I want to do what I think we can do here in Pennsylvania and that is have this industry, but do it right from an environmental point of view, from a health point of view.” – Pennsylvania Governor-elect [Tom Wolf](#) (D)

“But if New York's taxpayers are indeed Zucker's patients, they should consider suing him for malpractice, because **the new ban on hydraulic fracturing in New York has nothing to do with public health or good science.** Instead, it's an **anti-scientific, political decision** that will harm the country as it panders to far-left environmentalists.” - Jeremy Carl, [CNN](#)

“While unemployment in New York's shale-rich Southern Tier remains high, safely regulated natural gas development has led to the creation of a quarter of a million new jobs across the border in Pennsylvania. **To New Yorkers across upstate struggling for economic growth: New York's governor has failed you.**” – New York State Republican Chairman [Ed Cox](#)

“True enough, Cuomo’s not a scientist — if he were, or even knew any, he would know that the propaganda about ‘health effects’ is not borne out by the evidence. And if he’s not ‘an environmentalist,’ his pusillanimous kowtowing to that camp **makes him an honorary blue-ribbon member of the anti-science, anti-progress crowd.**” – [American Council on Science and Health](#)

“Today’s decision by the Cuomo administration to prohibit hydraulic fracturing in New York **rejects decades of proven safe natural gas development throughout the country and world.** For an administration that has made job creation a priority, **political theater has won over** an issue that could have transformed New York’s economic present and future.” - National Federation of Independent Business New York state director [Michael Durant](#)

“Despite protests to the contrary, it **appears that politics, not science, shaped this decision.**” – New York Senate Majority Leader [Dean Skelos](#) (R)

“Cuomo’s decision is **a disaster for the environment** where it counts most – on climate change.” – N.J. Star-Ledger editorial board member [Tom Moran](#)