

1 MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

6 ADVISORY COMMISSION HEARING

7 MARCELLUS SHALE

10 AUGUST 20, 2012

11 6:00 p.m.

15 GARRETT COLLEGE AUDITORIUM

16 687 MOSSER ROAD

17 MCHENRY, MARYLAND 21541

21 Reported by: Debra A. Volk

1 MARCELLUS SHALE SAFE DRILLING

2 INITIATIVE ADVISORY COMMISSION

4 David Vanko, Chair

5 Senator George C. Edwards

6 Delegate Heather R. Mizeur

7 Commissioner James M. Raley

8 Commissioner William R. Valentine

9 Mayor Peggy Jamison

10 Mr. Shawn Bender

11 Mr. Dominick E. Murray

12 Mr. Paul Roberts

13 Mr. Nick Weber

14 Harry Weiss, Esquire

1 A T T E N D E E S

3 Ms. Brigid E. Kenney, MDE

4 Mr. Crede Calhoun

5 Ms. Dana Shimrock

6 Ms. Nadine Grabania

7 Ms. Jackie Sams

8 Ms. Matia Vanderbilt

9 Mr. Eric Robison

10 Ms. Linda Herdering

11 Mr. Mike Herdering

12 Ms. Sharon Elsey

13 Mr. Marshall Stacy

14 Mr. Jim Zimmerman

15 Mr. Leo Martin

16 Ms. Barbara Beelar

17 Mr. James Smokey Stanton

18 Ms. Melissa O'Neal

19 Ms. Nancy Nimmich

20 Ms. Joyce Bishoff

21 Ms. Wanda Reynolds

22 Ms. Liz McDowell

1 A T T E N D E E S (Contd.)

3 Ms. Barbara Gafney

4 Mr. Paul Fletcher

5 Mr. Stefan Moylan

6 Mr. Bill Aiken

7 Ms. Brenda Smith

8 Ms. Nicole Christian

9 Mr. Bill Bishoff

10 Mr. Bob Sharp

11 Mr. Patrick Riley

12 Ms. Marsha Tirocke

13 Mr. Olan Beitzel

14 Mr. Delmar Yoder

15 Ms. Carol Bender

16 Mr. Derek Johnson

17 Mr. Floyd Ellis

18 Mr. David Moe

19 Mr. Brooks Hamilton

20 Mr. Jeffrey Nelson

21 Ms. Dawn Pool

22 Mr. Tom Kozikowski

A T T E N D E E S (Contd.)

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- 2
- 3 Mr. Elliot Smith
- 4 Ms. Barb Pritts
- 5 Mr. Bill Beachy
- 6 Delegate Wendell Beitzel
- 7 Ms. Karen Krough
- 8 Mr. Jeffrey Davis
- 9 Ms. Debby Ward
- 10 Mr. Bill Vansickle
- 11 Mr. Quinn Eckley
- 12 Mr. Kevin Dodge
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P R O C E E D I N G S

1

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3 MR. VANKO: Good evening,

4 everyone. Everyone, could you please have a seat

5 who's here for the Commission Meeting, including

6 the Commissioners?

7 We have a sign-up sheet that was

8 outside for people who want to make some comments

9 at tonight's meeting and if you want to make

10 comments, you need to sign up on that sign-up

11 sheet because in a little while, a little later,

12 we're going to read off some names and have you

13 come up.

14 There's a closure to the window for

15 signing up on that sheet, which is in about five

16 minutes. So if you'd like to make a public

17 comment at this meeting, please sign up. There

18 are alternate ways to make public comments to the

19 Advisory Commission. You can give us written

20 comments and that can be either e-mailed in or

21 you can go to the website of the Advisory

22 Commission and make public comments.

1 The comments will be collated and

2 sent out to all Commissioners. We do read them.

3 Okay.

4 It looks like our Commissioners are

5 now all on time. I'm still waiting for one or

6 two commissioners to come up to the stage. Okay.

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: The

8 lights are shining on the screen. It's very hard

9 to see.

10 MR. VANKO: Okay.

11 Do we have an audio/visual person?

12 Okay. We will do that when the presentation is

13 being made. All right.

14 Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the

15 10th monthly meeting of the Marcellus Shale Safe

16 Drilling Initiative Advisory Commission. This is

17 our first meeting that's being held in the

18 evening, and this was a suggestion made at a

19 previous meeting by several of our commissioners

20 who recognized that folks who can't come to the

21 meeting during the day were getting sort of

22 squeezed out of our deliberations. So thanks to

1 those commissioners who suggested an evening

2 meeting. Thanks to all of the commissioners who

3 agreed to come to an evening meeting, and thank

4 you to all the people who have come and have

5 shown an interest in our deliberations.

6 Tonight's meeting is going to have a

7 fairly simple agenda. After we introduce

8 ourselves, we're going to hopefully approve the

9 minutes from our last meeting and then we're

10 going to have three short topical presentations,

11 followed by the period for public comment.

12 When we do have public comments,

13 we're going to be limited to three minutes and I

14 have a timer, and we're going to end at nine

15 o'clock sharp and we apologize ahead of time if

16 we haven't gotten through all of the comments by

17 nine o'clock sharp, but that's our ground rule.

18 So first, let me ask the members of

19 the Advisory Commission to introduce themselves.

20 If we would start at the end, please say your

21 name, who you represent and maybe a sentence

22 about where you're coming from.

1 MR. VALENTINE: Bill
 2 Valentine, Allegany County Commissioner.

3 MR. RALEY: Jim Raley,
 4 Garrett County Commissioner.

5 SENATOR EDWARDS: George
 6 Edwards, State Senator.

7 MR. BENDER: Shawn Bender,
 8 Beitzel Corporation and Garrett County Farm
 9 Bureau.

10 MR. WEISS: Harry Weiss with
 11 the law firm of Ballard Spahr, LLP out of
 12 Baltimore and Philadelphia, principally
 13 representing the landowners in Pennsylvania where
 14 we're way ahead of moving up the curve, but we're
 15 there anyway.

16 DELEGATE MIZEUR: Hi. I'm
 17 Delegate Heather Mizeur from Montgomery County.
 18 I was involved in working with Western
 19 Marylanders a couple years ago to start the
 20 process of making sure that Maryland looks at
 21 doing this the right way and that if we move
 22 forward at all in fracking, we do it in a way

1 that doesn't harm the environment and public
 2 health in the ways that we have seen happening in
 3 our neighboring states. Let's learn from their
 4 lessons and get it right the first time here in
 5 Maryland.

6 MR. ROBERTS: I'm Paul
 7 Roberts. I'm a grape farmer in Garrett County,
 8 small business owner and a citizen representative
 9 to the Commission.

10 MR. WEBER: Nick Weber, I am
 11 a past chairman of the Mid-Atlantic Council of
 12 Trout Unlimited, and we have 2500 members, most
 13 of which have fished the wonderful waters here in
 14 Garrett County and this is a special, special
 15 place for us. We hope to maintain it.

16 Thank you.

17 MR. FRITTS: My name is John
 18 Fritts. I'm with the Savage River Watershed
 19 Association.

20 MAYOR JAMISON: I'm Peggy
 21 Jamison, Mayor of Oakland.

22 MR. MURRAY: I'm Dominic

1 Murray, member at large. In my day job, I'm
 2 Deputy Secretary of the State of Maryland's
 3 Department of Business and Economic Development.

4 MR. VANKO: Thank you very
 5 much.

6 There are two commissioners also on
 7 the commission who aren't here tonight. That's
 8 Mr. Jeffrey Kupfer of Chevron Corporation and
 9 Mr. Steve Bunker, who is from the Nature
 10 Conservancy, and I think that's everyone on our
 11 Commission, if I'm not mistaken.

12 We also have with us tonight people
 13 you will meet in a minute. Brigid Kenney from
 14 the Maryland Department of the Environment is one
 15 of our key staff people with us and Joe Gill from
 16 the Department of Natural Resources, and Gene
 17 Piotrowski, right next to him, from the
 18 Department of Natural Resources.

19 I'd like to welcome Secretary Bob
 20 Summers, Secretary of the Environment of the
 21 great state of Maryland and is Secretary Griffin
 22 here? Okay. Secretary Griffin couldn't come.

1 But normally at our meetings, as
 2 often as possible, both secretaries attend and
 3 they are, of course, very important participants.
 4 The first order of business, then on our agenda
 5 is approval of the minutes of our June meeting.
 6 The Commissioners have gotten copies of the
 7 minutes. Are there any corrections or mistakes
 8 in those minutes?

9 I don't see anyone. Is there a
 10 mistake? Okay. It's a sign-in sheet.

11 Hearing that, all those in favor of
 12 approving the minutes of the June meeting, please
 13 say aye. Opposed?

14 Thank you.

15 So our first presentation tonight is
 16 by Brigid Kenney on the general aspects of the
 17 Marcellus shale and shale gas development.

18 MS. KENNEY: Good evening.
 19 My purpose tonight is to lay out the basic facts
 20 about drilling in the Marcellus shale and to
 21 explain how drilling is regulated in Maryland.
 22 Many of you may be familiar with the material I'm

1 going to cover, but it may be new to others.
 2 Drilling is not new in Maryland. Several hundred
 3 gas-producing wells were drilled in Maryland in
 4 the 1950's and '60s. Only about 10 of these are
 5 currently ~~committed~~ permitted for production. There are
 6 about 90 wells from which all the gas has been
 7 extracted that are now used to store natural gas
 8 for periods of peak demand, and those are in that
 9 area around Accident.

10 I know this slide says the Marcellus
 11 shale, that big, green blob is not the Marcellus
 12 shale. It's the Utica shale, which is even
 13 deeper and more widespread than the Marcellus.
 14 The Marcellus shale is outlined in yellow inside
 15 the green. In this area of the country it's more
 16 than a mile below the surface. It underlies all
 17 of Garrett County and part of Allegany County.

18 Maryland has only -- well, it has
 19 less than two percent of the gas that is present
 20 in the Marcellus shale. Pennsylvania has about
 21 50 percent; New York and West Virginia have 20,
 22 21 percent. Not all the gas in the Marcellus

1 shale is exactly the same. The gas underlying
 2 Maryland is mostly dry gas, almost pure methane
 3 with no liquid hydrocarbons.

4 Further to the west, inside that
 5 dotted red line is an area that gas is mixed with
 6 heavier hydrocarbons like methane and butane and
 7 other natural gas liquids, and further west still
 8 the formation yields natural gas liquids and also
 9 ~~etc~~ oils. Of these three, the dry gas, the wet gas
 10 and the gas ~~is~~ and oil, dry gas is the least
 11 profitable and we have seen companies moving
 12 their operations further west, including to Ohio,
 13 in order to tap into these more profitable wells.

14 This conceptual drawing will give you
 15 an idea of how gas is extracted from deep shale
 16 with the Marcellus. Floating up near the top of
 17 the picture is the land surface. Here it's shown
 18 with four well pads, and six wells are shown
 19 being built from each pad. When vertical wells
 20 get down close to the Marcellus shale, a
 21 directional drill allows the drill bit to turn
 22 and run horizontally through the shale.

1 The horizontal or lateral parts of
 2 the well enable the drillers to reach gas over a
 3 greater area from a single well pad.

4 This is another set of drawings
 5 showing a site before there's any drilling and
 6 after the first drilling location is there and
 7 then the final picture shows four well pads that
 8 look completed and three more that still have
 9 drill rigs. That's just an artist's conception,
 10 but it really doesn't look that different from an
 11 actual aerial photograph. This happens to be
 12 from ~~Benere~~ Dimock, Pennsylvania.

13 I want to tell you about the way
 14 drilling is done and how ~~it involves people to~~
 15 ~~work~~ and why it works. The ~~thing~~ borehole for a Marcellus
 16 well is drilled vertically through many layers of
 17 rock, through the sources of drinking water and
 18 down further through salt water that's not
 19 suitable for drinking. Eventually it reaches a
 20 ~~tip~~ kick off point that the drill is turned, so that
 21 the well can be drawn -- drilled laterally or
 22 horizontally through the target formation, in

1 this case, the Marcellus, and the lateral can go
 2 for a mile or even more.

3 Well casing, which is steel pipe, is
 4 inserted into the borehole periodically and is
 5 cemented in place. The cement is forced down
 6 inside the casing, and when it reaches the bottom
 7 of the hole, it has no place to go but to exit
 8 the casing and come up on the outside casing so
 9 that it fills the space between the casing and
 10 the earth, the formation.

11 As the borehole gets drilled deeper,
 12 smaller casings are used and it too is cemented.
 13 The integrity of the well casing and the cement
 14 is critical because that is what isolates the
 15 inside of the well from the rest of the
 16 environment, sealing off the well from drinking
 17 water aquifers and keeping the gas in the well.
 18 If there are any failures to the well casing or
 19 defective cement, it could allow fracking fluids
 20 and methane to escape the well.

21 This is a hard to see picture of some
 22 casing with the cement on the outside. In

1 Maryland, we have some existing regulations
2 already on gas drilling, which require that the
3 casing be extended and cemented to at least 100
4 feet below the lowest drinking water aquifer.

5 So at this point the well has been
6 completely drilled, but the well and the
7 Marcellus shale with its gas are separated by
8 steel casing and cement -- so the next stage is
9 called perforation. Explosive charges are
10 inserted into the horizontal portion of the well
11 in sections of maybe a couple hundred feet.
12 Small explosions are set off that perforate the
13 steel casing and the cement and extend the
14 fracture a short way into the shale formation.

15 The next step is the hydraulic
16 fracturing. Large amounts of water mixed with
17 sand and some chemicals are forced down the well
18 under pressure to make fractures in the tight
19 shale to release the gas. This is also done in
20 stages with other parts of the well temporarily
21 plugged to maintain the high water pressure and
22 get maximum fracturing results in the rock. Sand

1 ~~and~~-in the fracturing fluids keep these new
2 fractures open.

3 When the fracturing is completed, the
4 next stage is production. The water pressure is
5 reduced and some of the fracking fluid, maybe 30
6 to 40 percent, flows back up the well bore for
7 disposal or treatment and reuse and gas also
8 begins to flow up the well.

9 Now, I mentioned fracking fluid; the
10 composition of fracking fluid is not the same in
11 every well, but typically fracking fluid would
12 contain about 90 to 91 percent water, eight to
13 nine percent sand and about one half of one
14 percent chemicals.

15 Some of these chemicals can be found
16 in household products, others definitely not.
17 The chemicals are brought to the site in a
18 relatively concentrated form and spills are a
19 concern, but the concentration of any one of these
20 chemicals in the fracking fluid is very small.
21 The amount of fracking fluid used varies. It can
22 be approximately 1,000,000 gallons of water for

1 every thousand feet fracked or about 5,000,000
2 gallons for a well that has a mile long lateral,
3 and as I said, about 30 percent of the fracking
4 fluid flows back in the first few days after
5 fracking. The remainder stays in the ground.

6 A few pictures might give you a
7 better idea of what the sites look like. This
8 was a drilling site in West Virginia. It was
9 using an electric drill, but there was no
10 electricity at this site, and so there were a
11 great number of electrical generators running on
12 diesel at the site.

13 This is another picture of the same
14 site with the drill rig in the background, and it
15 shows a lined pond, which is being used to store
16 fresh water before fracking and it will contain
17 the fracking flow-back. You get a sense from
18 this picture about the amount of grading that's
19 necessary to prepare a flat pad and a deep pond.

20 Still at the same site, in the
21 foreground you see that chemicals are stored,
22 covered with tarps and with secondary containment

1 around them to collect storm water and also in
2 the event of a spill.

3 Once the drilling is done and the
4 fracking is done, the drill rig is removed and
5 the fracking equipment is brought on-site. In
6 addition to the sand, water and chemicals, there
7 are mixing units and powerful pumps mounted on
8 tractor-trailers that produce the pressure
9 necessary for fracking.

10 Once the fracking is completed, the
11 site looks very different. This was a site I
12 visited in Pennsylvania last November. I'm not
13 very good at judging areas. I think this pad,
14 which had a single well on it, was about two
15 acres in size. That is the well and the drilling
16 structure you see in the background. This is the
17 well itself with the arrangement of pipes and
18 valves. It looks kind of like a Christmas tree.
19 At this site, a significant amount of water came
20 up with the gas and this equipment was present to
21 remove -- separate the water out and send gas
22 into the pipeline, and these tanks were also

1 present at the site to contain the separated
 2 water.

3 Of course, the gas has to get from
 4 each well to a pipeline that will deliver it to
 5 someone ~~you who~~ can use it, and so gathering lines --
 6 pipelines are needed. Compressors keep the
 7 pressure up so the gas continues to flow. Gas ~~is~~
 8 natural gas ~~liquids~~ will probably go through a
 9 processing plant.

10 This is a site of a pipeline
 11 construction. Pipeline construction creates --
 12 the pipelines are ~~varied~~buried, so it creates an
 13 excavation site. This is the pipeline under
 14 construction and this is the pipeline after it's
 15 completed, and it's been re-~~vegetated~~vegetated. Trees
 16 will not be allowed to grow on the right-of-way
 17 of that pipeline, and so if it had been done
 18 through a forest, the forest would be fragmented.

19 Marcellus shale presents both
 20 opportunities and challenges for Maryland. In
 21 terms of opportunities, improved energy security
 22 for the United States and perhaps better balance

1 of trade as we import less and perhaps export
 2 natural gas. Of course, greenhouse gases may be
 3 lowered because when you produce electricity for
 4 natural gas, you emit much lower levels of
 5 greenhouse gases than when you use coal or oil.
 6 And there is, of course, the promise of economic
 7 development in Garrett and Allegany Counties.

8 There are also significant
 9 challenges. The operations present a potential
 10 risk of harm to public health and safety and to
 11 the environment. There are community and social
 12 impacts, and there are landscape level impacts we
 13 could experience, especially after a significant
 14 number of wells have gone in.

15 At the Federal level, drilling for
 16 natural gas is not unregulated. It's regulated
 17 by the Clean Water Act and also pre-treatment
 18 standards but it is exempt from some very
 19 significant regulations, including Safe Drinking
 20 Water Act, Underground Injection Control program
 21 and it's exempt from the hazardous waste laws.

22 Recently the Federal government has

1 gotten much more active. EPA has issued new
 2 regulations requiring that when the well is
 3 completed, that a reduced emissions completion
 4 technology be used, which captures the methane
 5 gas that otherwise -- and other ~~POG's~~VOC's that
 6 otherwise would be ~~related-released~~ to the -- to the
 7 ambient air, and other federal agencies have been
 8 cooperating to study the issues. In Maryland,
 9 the Maryland Department of the Environment issues
 10 a permit before anyone can drill a gas well in
 11 Maryland. The Department has broad authority to
 12 ~~propose-impose~~ any reasonable and appropriate permit
 13 conditions that are necessary to protect public
 14 safety and the state's natural resources.

15 There are some regulations ~~probably-~~
 16 ~~that aren't~~ ~~inpromulgated~~ under the statute, but these
 17 regulations have not been amended since 1993.
 18 They are not specific to Marcellus shale,
 19 horizontal drilling or high volumes ~~with-slick~~ water
 20 hydraulic fracturing, and one of the purposes of
 21 this Advisory Commission is to help the
 22 departments decide whether the regulations need

1 to be strengthened for 2014.

2 Other permits might also be needed.

3 If the driller wants to take water, ~~even-either~~ from
 4 wells, tapping the aquifers or from surface
 5 water, it would need a Water Appropriation permit
 6 from the Department and the Department balances
 7 the need for water in the stream with all the
 8 other uses for the water, ~~an~~ ~~An~~ Air Quality permit
 9 for the drilling and supporting equipment. If
 10 either the access roads or the pipelines need to
 11 cross wetlands and floodplains, there would be a
 12 wetlands and waterways permit and at least some
 13 local control on planning and zoning requirements
 14 to be set in the ~~effected-affected~~ counties would have to
 15 be observed. Grading and erosion and sediment
 16 control also have to be followed.

17 In June of 2011, Governor O'Malley
 18 issued his Executive Order, which directed the
 19 Department of the Environment and the Department
 20 of Natural Resources in consultation with this
 21 Advisory Commission to conduct this study and
 22 issue reports on a very broad -- we have a very

1 broad mandate. The short-term, long-term and
2 cumulative effects of natural gas exploration in
3 the Marcellus shale, best practices, and
4 appropriate changes pertaining to the laws and
5 regulations concerning oil and gas.

6 The Departments and the Commission
7 are charged with producing three reports. The
8 first one on revenue and liability issues was
9 completed at the end of 2011, and submitted to
10 the Governor and the General Assembly. Our next
11 report on best practices was originally scheduled
12 to be completed by August 1 of 2012, but it
13 became clear that we could not do an adequate job
14 in that timeframe, and the Secretary requested
15 and the Governor granted an extension of time.
16 We now expect to have a ~~direct draft~~ report on best
17 practices by the end of this year, that is, by
18 December 31, 2012. It will be available for
19 public comment and we will issue the final report
20 as soon as we can after the ~~closing-close of the~~ comment
21 period.

22 The remaining issues, which include

1 things like economic impact and public health are
2 to be included in our final report on August 1,
3 2014.

4 The next speaker, Joe Gill, Deputy
5 Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources
6 will talk now about what the departments have
7 been doing to satisfy the Executive Order.

8 ~~DELEGATE-DEPUTY SECRETARY~~ GILL: Good evening,
9 with me is Gene Piotrowski. I did actually bring
10 the tie. I just couldn't bring myself to put it
11 on. What we did here was we prepared a two-page
12 handout because we want to try to leave as much
13 time as possible for public commenting tonight.
14 I'm going to kind of go through this handout very
15 quickly, but Gene is here because Gene is leading
16 a team of natural resource professionals ~~that at~~ the
17 Department of Natural Resources look at potential
18 impacts of this drilling on the landscape and on
19 the waters and whatnot, and Gene is here to help
20 out in case I get stuck.

21 Anyway, our first task which was to
22 come up with some recommendations for legislation

1 on revenue sources and presumptions of liability.
2 A bunch of bills were introduced. We were able
3 to pass one law that essentially says that if
4 your drinking water is impaired within one year
5 of the commencement of drilling, and the drilling
6 platform is -- the drilling operation is 2500
7 feet away, then the presumption is that the
8 drilling company is responsible for what has
9 happened in your well.

10 My guess is that there will be other
11 bills that will be coming forward over the next
12 year or so to address some of the issues that
13 were left unaddressed to the General Assembly
14 last year, at least by way of bills being passed.
15 I will kind of leave that there.

16 As Brigid said, the study itself is
17 very ~~awbroad~~. What we tried to do is the departments
18 have educated the Advisory Commission to the
19 extent we can on our understanding of these
20 issues. We have brought in speakers over the
21 last 10 months to talk to us and the Advisory
22 Commission from the various points of view of the

1 drilling practice. We, at the department, have
2 begun to collect lots of data on what is out
3 there now in the landscape.

4 It's very important to understand if
5 there is -- if there will be impacts of the
6 Marcellus shale drilling into the future. I'm
7 not saying there will, but if there are impacts,
8 we need to know what is out there right now. We
9 need to know the quality of the water, the
10 quality of our streams, the quantity of the water
11 and the amount that's used. We also need to know
12 the extent of the drinking water supplies here in
13 Western Maryland.

14 So we have done a lot of work in all
15 of those areas to establish what we refer to as
16 baseline conditions, you know, what is there now?

17 The second area has to do with our
18 living resources, our fish, our forests, our
19 trees, our landscapes. One of the slides that
20 you were shown show kind of an area, which is
21 about one third forest. Garrett County, as many
22 of you may know, is about 68 percent forested.

1 That's a large part of the land base. So there
2 are impacts here that may occur that do not
3 occur, for example, in areas like Texas or
4 Oklahoma that do not have that forest space.

5 We've asked for geological survey
6 samples of methane in some sample wells because
7 methane itself is originally noted as one of the
8 gases that's used during this operation.

9 And the last theory and a primary is
10 that we have contracted with the University of
11 Maryland, Center for Environmental Science at the
12 Appalachian Laboratory. We've asked them to do
13 two things for us. The first is we've asked them
14 to look at best practices all around the country.
15 As some of you may know, there are 20-some states
16 that are involved in either legislating or
17 studying the Marcellus shale phenomenon.

18 So we are asking the University to
19 come back to us and say these are the best
20 practices that are being used elsewhere around
21 the country. And we are also asking the
22 University to come up with some recommendations

1 in consultation with the departments on which
2 practices would best protect our resources here.
3 Ultimately, the exercise in regulating Marcellus
4 shale drilling is going to be landscape specific.

5 So we are looking for some
6 recommendations on that, and as Brigid noted,
7 will be coming out at the end of December. One
8 of the very good things about the process that
9 Maryland is going through as witnessed by your
10 participation here tonight is that we try to be
11 very transparent, not only with comments at these
12 Commission meetings, but also comments on our web
13 site, and then ultimately when these statements
14 come out, they'll come out for public comment and
15 review, which we anticipate will be very
16 rigorous.

17 And our studies and our work and our
18 investigation into this area will continue, as
19 Brigid said, through August of 2014. With that,
20 I will end.

21 MR. VANKO: Thank you, Joe.
22 And I will pick up with a little bit more

1 commentary on what the Commission has been doing,
2 the history of the Advisory Commission and I
3 realize I didn't introduce myself earlier at the
4 end of the round of introductions.

5 I'm David Vanko. I'm the Dean of
6 Science and Mathematics at Towson University in
7 Towson, and my background is in geology.

8 So beginning in 2010, applications
9 were filed for permits to produce gas from the
10 Marcellus shale in Maryland, using horizontal
11 drilling. That led in 2011 to the 2011
12 Legislative session, where bills were introduced
13 regarding further study and development of
14 regulations before permits could be issued. One
15 bill passed the House that would have funded a
16 study by assessing a fee on those who hold gas
17 leases in Maryland but it died in the Senate
18 committee and at the close of the 2011 session.

19 We refer to that as the -- what do we
20 call that? The Study Bill, yeah. Because that
21 stalled in the 2011 Legislature, the Governor
22 issued an Executive Order that Brigid referred to

1 on June 6, 2011. And this Commission was put
2 together very carefully choosing people who would
3 represent different points of view in the issues
4 and this Commission met for the first time in
5 August of 2011.

6 So we've really had quite a rapid
7 development, and as I said, this is the 10th
8 meeting. We've met 10 times. This Commission
9 was established to assist state policymakers and
10 regulators in determining whether and how gas
11 production from the Marcellus in Maryland could
12 be accomplished and this is verbatim: without
13 unacceptable risks of adverse impacts to public
14 health, safety, the environment and natural
15 resources. So the goal of the Commission is to
16 address this kind of determination we've been
17 charged with using an analytical, scientific and
18 balanced approach.

19 If it's determined that the industry
20 can proceed, commissioners want to make sure that
21 it's, quote, done right, and you've heard that
22 before already tonight. We're keenly aware that

1 there are risks, for example, to the environment
 2 and the cleaning up after something like a spill
 3 is much more expensive and difficult than
 4 preventing that spill in the first place,
 5 preventing it through effective rules and
 6 sufficient monitoring that the rules are being
 7 followed.

8 It's important to understand that we
 9 are an Advisory Commission. Reports are developed
 10 for delivery to the state are prepared by the
 11 departments, by DNR and MDE, but they're required
 12 to elicit and consider the commissioners' advice,
 13 the Commission's advice. We seek consensus where
 14 possible, but as one might imagine, achieving a
 15 unanimous recommendation from this group of
 16 commissioners on some issues, on some Marcellus
 17 issues, is not going to be possible. When that's
 18 the case, the Commission's role is to highlight
 19 the various points of view ensuring that each
 20 point of view is aired and considered by the
 21 State.

22 Brigid and Joe both remarked on the

1 three reports that are due to the State, the
 2 December report was already completed. How does
 3 the Commission get input? Well, at our previous
 4 meetings, we've sought input from various
 5 experts. By the way, how many people are here
 6 for their very first Commission meeting? Raise
 7 your hand. Thank you. About half of you, and
 8 that's really important to point out because this
 9 evening meeting has made it possible, hopefully,
 10 for a lot of you to come.

11 Here are some of the folks we've
 12 listened to during our previous nine meetings,
 13 Secretary Bob Summers of MDE, Secretary John
 14 Griffin at DNR, of course Brigid and Joe tell us
 15 a lot, and you've already heard from them
 16 tonight.

17 Bruce Michael, who is the head of the
 18 Resource Assessment Service for DNR talked to us
 19 about water resources in mountain Maryland.
 20 Catherine McCall, a natural resource analyst for
 21 DNR talked to us about ~~improving natural resources,~~
 22 ~~largely management.~~ Ed Larrimore, who is the manager of the

1 mining program for MDE talked to us about mining
 2 regulations, Dave Brezinski, a geologist, who is
 3 a stratigrapher from the Maryland Geological
 4 Survey explained details of Marcellus shale to
 5 us, Glen Bing, an industry consultant with
 6 expertise, many years of expertise in oil and gas
 7 drilling and production spoke to us.

8 Doctor Keith Eshleman is from the
 9 University of Maryland Center for Environmental
 10 Sciences Appalachian Lab in Frostburg, and it's
 11 Doctor Eshleman, who is the -- who is writing the
 12 consulting report for us on best management
 13 practices. Dave Bolton, a hydrogeologist from
 14 the Maryland Geological Survey, and Dave told us
 15 about studies that he's commencing now, that
 16 Brigid mentioned, to sample Garrett County water
 17 wells and develop at least some baseline
 18 information on methane concentrations.

19 Lisa Nissley, our Legislative
 20 Specialist from MDE is here. We've heard from
 21 her. Karen Irons of the MDE Air and Radiation
 22 Management administration talked to us about

1 regulation of air pollution. Jennifer Haynes
 2 also of that administration talked to us about
 3 air monitoring. So that list is to try to
 4 impress upon you that we have not been sitting on
 5 our thumbs. We've actually been trying to learn
 6 some things. I may have forgotten --.

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: The
 8 field trip.

9 MR. VANKO: Ah, in lieu of
 10 the July 2012 meeting, the commissioners, many of
 11 us were treated to a site visit to an active
 12 drilling rig near Uniontown, Pennsylvania, and to
 13 a nearby drill pad that was being set up for
 14 hydraulic fracturing within the next two or three
 15 days, and that field trip was my first field trip
 16 on a horizontal drilling rig and a fracking pad
 17 and I think that was the case for many of us.

18 So the Commission will continue, as
 19 we continue over the next two years to seek
 20 expert advice -- oh, by the way, detailed minutes
 21 of all of our meetings as well as copies of the
 22 many PowerPoint presentations, like tonight's

1 that we have seen are available on our website,
 2 and anyone can find them by going to MD MDE,
 3 Maryland MDE. You can Google that. Just go to,
 4 you know, whatever the Maryland Department of the
 5 Environment website is, and then in the middle is
 6 a drill rig, click on the drill rig and you can
 7 see all of our minutes, all of our agendas, all
 8 of the attached PowerPoint presentations and lots
 9 of other resources as well. There's an option on
 10 that website to submit public comments, like I
 11 mentioned earlier.

12 So in addition to the comments we
 13 receive tonight, everyone is encouraged to send
 14 written comments to us.

15 So at this point in time, the
 16 Commission is engaged in basically two
 17 objectives. First, is the development of the
 18 second report, the one on best management
 19 practices relating to the shale gas industry.
 20 Commissioners will have Doctor Keith Eshleman's
 21 consulting report before our next meeting and
 22 over the next month or two the departments will

1 be drafting the best management practices report
 2 for the Commission to analyze and discuss and
 3 consider.

4 The second item that we're currently
 5 undertaking is follow-up work stemming from the
 6 first report; that report on revenue sources and
 7 liability issues. The 2012 Legislature debated a
 8 number of bills that dealt with a number of
 9 aspects of Marcellus shale gas development, some
 10 of which were the result of recommendations in
 11 the first report.

12 However, relatively few of the bills
 13 were enacted. So consequently in preparation for
 14 the next session, for the 2013 Legislative
 15 session, the departments have been asked to
 16 establish a small working group of commissioners
 17 who would assist in drafting some comprehensive
 18 legislation aimed at carrying out the report's
 19 recommendations.

20 This small working group will consult
 21 with the full Commission for guidance during the
 22 next several months leading up to the

1 legislature, and at this point I would like to
 2 invite commissioners who want to be on that small
 3 working group to mail or e-mail or call Brigid or
 4 me and we'll somehow see how much interest there
 5 is and then craft together that small working
 6 group. I presume most of the meetings will take
 7 place in Annapolis. We don't know, unless maybe
 8 we could rent a bed and breakfast in McHenry.

9 Okay. Great. So that is my sort of
 10 your report on what the Commission has been doing
 11 and where we are now. And that brings us to the
 12 point in our deliberations where we are going to
 13 entertain public comments. So, Brigid, would you
 14 please explain how you want to do this?

15 MS. KENNEY: Approximately 45
 16 people have signed up to speak and if we keep to
 17 our three-minute limit, everyone will get to
 18 speak and we'll get to close on time at nine
 19 o'clock. If you would prefer to submit written
 20 comments, please do so. If your comments are
 21 really, "I agree with the previous speaker", feel
 22 free to limit yourself to that, but if you have

1 something additional to say, please do that also.

2 Is there anyone that wants to sign up
 3 who hasn't? Okay. If we have three minutes at
 4 the end, we will call you. I'm going to call
 5 three or four names at a time, and ask you to
 6 come up to the front, state your name and spell
 7 your last name. If you're representing a group
 8 and not speaking on your own behalf, if you can
 9 identify what group that is and then give your
 10 comments. We are listening and the court
 11 reporter is taking it down so that you can review
 12 it in the future and Chairman Vanko is going to
 13 keep track of the time and we're going to be
 14 quite strict about that. So the first three
 15 speakers will be Crede Calhoun, Mike Bell and
 16 Dana Shimrock.

17 MR. CALHOUN: My name is
 18 Crede Calhoun, C-A-L-H-O-U-N. I'm not here to
 19 talk about the water, which as we all know is
 20 going to be the new gold and anything that might
 21 threaten that is absolutely insane, and as long
 22 as we are blessed with massive amounts of good,

1 clean water up here.

2 Our county is a leader in the
3 revitalization of Appalachia mainly from its
4 tourism and resort environment that public and
5 private investment established and continues to
6 expand. These investments includes hundreds of
7 millions of dollars, a huge expansion, private
8 expansion to Wisp, a \$20 million public
9 investment in the Adventure Sports Institute and
10 literally, you know, millions, \$1 billion in real
11 estate value from the tourism and recreation
12 industry.

13 Our county commissioners and chamber
14 of commerce realize the value of tourism. In
15 2008, a commission with the Appalachian Regional
16 Commission, a study at the cost of \$50,000 to
17 study what tourism is all about, its economic
18 impact and what the visitors to Garrett County
19 are concerned about. There is this report. I
20 would like to present this to the Commission. It
21 interviewed over 3000 -- approximately 3000
22 visitors over a two-year period, and it became

1 quite clear in conclusion in that report that
2 visitors are very, very concerned about
3 over-development. They come here for the nature.
4 They come here for scenery. They come here for
5 clean air, clean water and the environment.

6 On March 2 of 2011, the Maryland
7 Humanities Council sponsored a presentation about
8 Marcellus shale drilling and one of the
9 presenters was Doctor Gregory Whitestone, who is
10 an American Petroleum geologist -- from Texas.
11 He knows what gas drilling is all about. He's
12 seen the impacts and he made it quite clear at
13 that meeting that Western Maryland should be very
14 careful about making decisions to drill because
15 it will change the character of Garrett County
16 forever, and that is in the words of the gas
17 industry.

18 Now, this report that I mentioned,
19 you know, it makes it clear that we're at a
20 potential negative tipping point of
21 over-development from all the comments received
22 and we have -- our county, you know, there are

1 literally hundreds and hundreds of businesses
2 that run on tourism in this county, and these are
3 hundreds if not thousands of families of people,
4 real people, that depend upon tourism, which
5 depends on a good environment.

6 Even the state of Maryland spends
7 billions of dollars, millions of dollars to
8 promote and they know how important it is to
9 protect the environment to continue that tourism
10 growth, which is good, clean, sustainable growth,
11 which if somebody comes here and enjoys it, they
12 might even buy a \$1 million home, who knows? Now
13 that's a substantial public investment that's
14 long-term and it's good for this county. Think
15 of all the businesses --

16 MR. VANKO: That's three
17 minutes.

18 MR. CALHOUN: That's three
19 minutes?

20 MR. VANKO: Yes.

21 MR. CALHOUN: Oh, man, well,
22 I would implore the Maryland Planning Commission

1 to look into this negative economic impact of
2 massive gas industrialized drilling in this
3 county.

4 MR. VANKO: Thank you for
5 that report.

6 * * *
7 (Applause)

8 * * *
9 MR. CALHOUN: And three
10 minutes is not adequate time.

11 MR. VANKO: Don't forget you
12 can also submit written comments.

13 MR. CALHOUN: You got it.

14 MS. KENNEY: Mark Bell says
15 he doesn't want to talk and Dana Shimrock is
16 next, and Nadine Grabania, Jackie Sams and Matia
17 Vanderbilt.

18 MS. SHIMROCK: I'm Dana
19 Shimrock, S-H-I-M-R-O-C-K. I'm a retired
20 research librarian and landowner in the community
21 of the Cove. Regrettably, I signed a lease over
22 five years ago. I was unaware, then, of the

1 serious consequences this industry can have. Do
 2 not let anyone fool you into thinking this is the
 3 same small-scale well extraction we have had in
 4 this county in the past. It has a huge footprint
 5 and it has the potential for serious consequences
 6 to landowners' personal health, water supplies,
 7 livestock and property values.

8 Learning that, I urgently tried
 9 getting the word out to my community to educate
 10 themselves on this massive industrial process and
 11 I began endlessly researching facts,
 12 communicating with folks in Pennsylvania and West
 13 Virginia, visiting well sites and actively
 14 attending community meetings, County Advisory
 15 meetings and your own Governor's Commission
 16 meetings.

17 The knowledge I gained has helped me
 18 to become involved with the state legislature to
 19 see if efficient regulations could be put into
 20 place to ensure our land and well being would be
 21 protected. The more I learned; the more I became
 22 panicked. The land my husband and I worked so

1 hard to develop over the last 35 years could
 2 potentially be rendered valueless if something
 3 went wrong, and there is plenty that can, has
 4 gone, and is continuing to go wrong as property
 5 values in many areas in Pennsylvania have
 6 plummeted, even just by virtue of having a lease
 7 attached to them.

8 All of this has made me change my
 9 position, and I'm calling for a formal
 10 legislative moratorium on the fracking industry
 11 coming into Maryland. No drilling should be done
 12 until it can be proven that it can be done while
 13 safety -- with safety protecting our water, our
 14 health, our quality of life, our property values
 15 and our current industries.

16 I have been told by my local
 17 legislators that, of course, we will do it
 18 safely, but I have yet to be presented with the
 19 evidence that it can. There is not enough money
 20 to fund the studies necessary to ensure its
 21 safety, to provide enough inspectors. There has
 22 not been enough time to get the proper regs into

1 place. The county is not prepared for the
 2 onslaught of traffic, potential hazards of
 3 spills, explosions and the devaluations to the
 4 real estate market.

5 There is no proof or assurance that
 6 water wells will not be damaged or that families
 7 will be compensated for damages. A strong
 8 surface owners' protection act is not in place.
 9 As a landowner myself, I am a strong believer
 10 that we should be able to do with our land what
 11 is within our legal rights. I live in a
 12 struggling farming community and I love and
 13 respect the hard work my neighbors do every day,
 14 but we must ask ourselves this question, if the
 15 industry you choose to do with your land has the
 16 potential to profoundly and negatively impact you
 17 and your neighbors' health, safety and well-being
 18 and quality of life, don't we have a moral
 19 obligation to seriously evaluate the consequences
 20 of our actions on those neighbors?

21 If I could get rid of this lease, I
 22 would do it in a heartbeat. If this industry

1 comes to Garrett County, make no mistake, the
 2 industry's arrival and disturbance to our way of
 3 life will tear communities apart with
 4 divisiveness as the haves, the have nots, winners
 5 and the big losers get pitted against each other.

6 We are experiencing some of this
 7 already in the county and the industrial impact
 8 hasn't hit yet. I do not want to lose the sense
 9 of community that I came to Garrett County for
 10 and worked hard over the years to develop. We
 11 cannot afford to lose the value of our property.
 12 We cannot afford \$500 a month for water buffaloes
 13 if our water is damaged and our land is devalued.
 14 With a formal legislative moratorium, at the very
 15 least, we can buy ourselves the time we need to
 16 have this industry prove that they can do a
 17 better job than its current record shows and that
 18 we can do a better job as a community to protect
 19 our way of life.

20 * * *

21 (Applause)

22 * * *

1 MS. KENNEY: I would suggest
2 that if anyone has written comments, they can be
3 submitted in writing and then just summarized in
4 the three minutes.

5 MS. GRABANIA: Hi. My name is
6 Nadine Grabania. It's spelled G-R-A-B-A-N-I-A.

7 I'm a resident of Friendsville. My
8 family owns and operates an agricultural and
9 tourism related business. I want to use my time
10 wisely here. I'd like first to second some of
11 the concerns raised by Mr. Calhoun in his
12 comments and recommend that as you go into the
13 third part of the study where you're looking at
14 economic impacts, please consider putting a study
15 together of the economic problems that this is
16 going to cause in Garrett County.

17 I'd like to see an objective entity
18 do a study. We already have an
19 industry-sponsored study given to the Legislature
20 this year by the ~~state's~~ Sage policy group talking
21 about all the plus signs, all of the promises. I
22 want to know and have a good study done of what

1 will happen to our property values, our tax base
2 when properties are devalued. If you can't live
3 on your property with no water, what's it worth
4 and how long will it ever be replaced, how long
5 will it take to replace wells? Can we do that?

6 Secondly, as you consider best
7 management practices and wrap up that part of the
8 Commission's work, I've heard a lot and in
9 reading about this that regulations are only as
10 good as the enforcement that you can do and I
11 just want to raise a question for people to think
12 about in this room, as well as the Commissioners
13 here.

14 Where will these inspectors who are
15 going to be looking at the well sites, where are
16 they going to reside? Are they going to be
17 people who live out here? Are they going to be
18 close by whenever something explodes? Are they
19 going to be able to use HAZ/MAT for emergency
20 responses?

21 I'm very concerned that -- we've got
22 plenty of qualified people in Annapolis and

1 Baltimore, are we going to have them close by
2 these well sites once they get into production.
3 And lastly, as I look at the land around my farm
4 that is leased, pretty much everywhere I can see
5 and I can't do anything about, I'm worried that
6 we need to understand how safe is this for those
7 of us who don't wish to be a part of this, and I
8 would like to understand better and maybe hear
9 from the Commission a little more about the third
10 part of the study where I think some of the
11 language in there is we want to determine if it
12 is safe for Maryland; what criteria are you going
13 to finally consider and how do you come up with
14 that decision?

15 And until we can be sure that we can
16 have adequate protections for those of us who
17 aren't sure about it; I'd like to recommend that
18 we pursue or look at a legislative moratorium
19 until we know and we have proof that we can
20 protect everybody involved and be safe.

21 Thank you.
22 * * *

1 (Applause)
2 * * *
3 MS. SAMS: I'm Jackie Sams,
4 S-A-M-S.

5 One of the aspects of Marcellus shale
6 drilling we hear about all the time is truck
7 traffic and a few of the issues that have been
8 identified by the gas industry are heavy trucks
9 on less than ideal roads, the potential for
10 accidents and the stress and impact on residents
11 in the area. All of these things are prior to the
12 actual drilling. It's just its preparation.

13 To give you an idea of the trucks,
14 they average 592 one-way trips into the well, not
15 counting going back out again. A truck can weigh
16 between 80,000 and 100,000 pounds when fully
17 loaded. Truck traffic to a typical well is
18 equivalent to 3.4 million car trips. As to the
19 cost of resurfacing, in West Virginia, where 90
20 percent of the roads are maintained by the state,
21 it cost \$100,000 a mile to resurface the roads,
22 not including new ones. To put that 100,000 in

1 perspective, in Allegany County, where I live,
2 last year, the whole year the county collected
3 \$115,000 in roads fees from the coal industry.

4 The projection for the coming year is
5 about \$102,000, just about a mile for the
6 resurfacing. In the northern tier of
7 Pennsylvania, roads that were customarily
8 resurfaced every 15 years have to be resurfaced
9 in seven to eight years instead. As for the
10 potential for accidents, in LaSalle County,
11 Texas, they saw a 418 percent increase in crashes
12 in trucks between 2008 and 2011, as
13 shale-drilling manufacturing ramped up.

14 Tiny McMillan, Texas, a tiny little
15 county of 700 people, started out with four
16 crashes a year and it's gone up to 46. In the
17 Northern tier of Pennsylvania between 2007 and
18 2010, truck crashes increased over 60 percent
19 with the crashes doubling in Bradford, Sullivan
20 and Wyoming Counties.

21 Sheriff Gruzinskas of Marshall
22 County, West Virginia, testified in a West

1 Virginia Senate hearing, he said drivers hired by
2 drilling companies were disrespectful of local
3 residents. The drivers are not familiar with our
4 narrow, winding roads. Many of our residents are
5 run off the road by large trucks. The stress and
6 impact on residents, even local residents trying
7 to respond to emergency situations are
8 challenged. The assistant fire chief of a
9 Pennsylvania township describes trying to get out
10 of his driveway with trucks going by with no
11 stopping them, so that he had to put on his
12 lights in order to even get out of his driveway.
13 Does that mean I'm done?

14 MR. VANKO: Yes.

15 MS. SAMS: Okay.

16 MR. VANKO: Thank you.

17 MS. SAMS: Okay. Thank you.

18 * * *

19 (Applause)

20 * * *

21 MS. KENNEY: Next will be

22 Eric Robison, Linda Herdering and Mike Herdering.

1 MS. VANDERBILT: Hi. My name
2 is Matia Vanderbilt, V-A-N-D-E-R-B-I-L-T and I
3 live in Mountain Lake Park, Maryland, and I've
4 been working on Marcellus shale gas drilling
5 issues for the last two years. I've gone down to
6 Annapolis every year for the last two years and
7 testified. I have seen the gas industry at work.
8 They are powerful. They have a lot of money and
9 they kill bills. Any bill that we put forward to
10 protect the people, they will be there to
11 effectively kill it. So I'm asking you now --
12 they killed our study bill, so I'm curious, where
13 is this money going to come from to finish these
14 impact studies that are so important to us to
15 protect our air and to protect our water?

16 When this money runs out, what's
17 going to happen? Are we going to be faced with
18 the gas industry pushing and applying pressure on
19 the State of Maryland to issue a permit and it
20 will all be fine? I don't think so. I've seen
21 them. They don't have our best interest at
22 heart. So at this point I'd like to pursue a

1 legislative moratorium, I think, until we can
2 find out if this can be done safely, we want our
3 air protected and our water protected.

4 Thank you.

5 * * *

6 (Applause)

7 * * *

8 MR. ROBISON: I'm Eric

9 Robison, R-O-B-I-S-O-N. Hello folks, we've seen
10 each other a lot over the last couple or three
11 years. We've spent a lot of time in Annapolis
12 together on a lot of different issues. I think
13 we've -- I don't want to say, fought well, really
14 we didn't fight. It's being concerned and
15 wanting to do something for your community,
16 wanting to do something for your family, and the
17 folks that you love. Some I don't care for, but
18 you know how that goes.

19 Over the last few years, I mean I've
20 spent a lot of my own money and a lot of my own
21 time going to Annapolis, working on legislation.
22 We've come here to the Commission last year and

1 actually put in some stuff that you guys ended up
2 pushing through that ended up working its way
3 into legislation, even though -- you guys aren't
4 getting what you need to effectively do your
5 jobs.

6 You're being hamstrung by the
7 industry because you can't get the money to do
8 what you need. We know that times are rough here
9 in Maryland. We need to be able to do the
10 studies to get out the information for that
11 baseline. Drilling is going to come to Garrett
12 County. It's going to come to all of Maryland,
13 as a matter of fact. Now that we've discovered
14 that there's shale development that can occur
15 down East, it's going to happen all over the
16 state and it behooves us as residents, as a
17 Commission, to make sure we have the best
18 information going forward, and the only way you
19 can have the best information is if you have the
20 monies to be able to get that information.

21 MDE and DNR, I was told were shaking
22 the couches for change. I mean is that the way

1 we really want to do studies? Is that the way we
2 want to make sure that we have the proper
3 baselines that we have information to go forward?
4 I think the best solution and you've heard it
5 several times already tonight is going to be a
6 legislative moratorium allowing a single bill to
7 allow this commission, the administration and the
8 departments the time to do the studies, get the
9 information and move forward.

10 We've seen the consequences of being
11 quick, being fast. Harry Weiss wouldn't have the
12 job that he has right now or making the money
13 that he does if it wasn't for this type of
14 problem. We heard earlier tonight at the meeting
15 in the other building, there are positives to
16 this. There are people who have made money.
17 There are things that have occurred that didn't
18 impact the environment.

19 It doesn't seem that that's the
20 exception but we'd like to think that it is.
21 We'd like to hope that it is always going to be a
22 given. If there's going to be problems, we want

1 to make sure that we are protected and I think by
2 allowing for a legislative moratorium, and giving
3 these folks what they need to do their job, it
4 will be better that way.

5 Thank you.

6 * * *
7 (Applause)

8 * * *
9 MS. KENNEY: Next will be
10 Linda Herdering, Barbara Pritts, Sharon Elsey and
11 Elisabeth Hoffman.

12 MS. HERDERING: Hello. I'm
13 Linda Herdering, H-E-R-D-E-R-I-N-G. I'm a local.
14 I live about a mile away from here. I can't
15 speak as eloquently as all of these folks have
16 spoken, but I want to ditto what they said. I
17 firmly believe that we need to find out what the
18 heck is going on. Why do we have this Commission
19 if we're going to expedite your studies? Can
20 anyone tell me that? We need money to do what
21 the Governor asked you to do, and you need to do
22 what you've been asked to do and we all need to

1 support you in doing that to protect our lands
2 and to protect our economy, and to protect our
3 future, and then we'll go make money on Marcellus
4 shale gas, if we can without damaging our
5 children, our future, our water, our everything.

6 Does anybody really know what can
7 happen here? Think about it. Has anybody
8 educated themselves? You guys go and do your
9 jobs. Please do your jobs. Please find the
10 money. We need -- I am one of those citizens
11 that says a legislative moratorium is needed
12 because if we don't, were going to be sorry. How
13 many neighboring states are sorry? They are so
14 sorry, you know, completely sorry, except for the
15 couple of people that packed up and went to
16 Bermuda. Really. That's all I have to say.

17 Thank you.

18 * * *
19 (Applause)

20 * * *
21 MR. HERDERING: Mike
22 Herdering, do I have to spell the last name

1 again? H-E-R-D-E-R-I-N-G. Normally when I do
 2 public speaking, I try to follow the three B's,
 3 be brief, be brilliant and be gone. However, it
 4 will be very hard to be brilliant today, because
 5 we've been followed by some great concerns and
 6 I'll just echo what my wife said. We need to
 7 study. We need the time and we need the money to
 8 do the science required. All of the concerns of
 9 the citizens that have been voiced so far, I,
 10 along with my wife agree to and I don't think I
 11 need to say much more than that.

12 * * *

13 (Applause)

14 * * *

15 MS. ELSEY: My name is Sharon
 16 Elsey, E-L-S-E-Y, and I agree with everything
 17 that has been said today and I do want to ask you
 18 one question. One catastrophe, one child's life;
 19 what is that worth? I mean to me, that's what
 20 this is all about. My environment is going to be
 21 destroyed; I know that, we all know that. I
 22 don't understand why this is even happening. Why

1 do we pay a flush tax for the Bay and you're
 2 going to let this stuff happen? I just can't get
 3 over it.

4 Thank you.

5 * * *

6 (Applause)

7 * * *

8 MS. KENNEY: Marshall Stacy,
 9 Jim Zimmerman, Leo Martin.

10 MR. STACY: Thank you. I was
 11 glad to see that a lot of the commissioners --
 12 oh, Marshall Stacy, S-T-A-C-Y. I was glad to see
 13 that a lot of the commission members have been on
 14 active well sites. I spent two days visiting
 15 over nine sites in Addison and Uniontown, up
 16 close and personal and I mean there's the rig
 17 drilling and there I am, this close. I found
 18 three major things. The first thing was I was
 19 given permission by my host, Chevron Oil, to shut
 20 down the entire site if I saw anything that
 21 appeared to be wrong.

22 The second thing, I could always tell

1 when we were getting close to a well site because
 2 the roads were all asphalt. All the little side
 3 roads, we call them county roads here. They're
 4 all state roads up there, but little dinky roads
 5 were all solid asphalt.

6 And I asked was that because of all
 7 the water trucks they bring in. They said no,
 8 they don't bring in water trucks at all to the
 9 site. What they do, when they're starting the
 10 field and starting the pads, they build a pond.
 11 It's 175 feet by 375 feet, 15 feet deep, five or
 12 six trucks work for six months to fill that pond.
 13 When they're going to frack a site in that field,
 14 they roll out a hose to that site and frack it.

15 The frack water doesn't get on the
 16 ground. I didn't see any ponds that frack water
 17 was put in. Everything goes in a truck, all the
 18 water that comes back up, and they said it was
 19 more like 10 to 20 percent than 30 percent of the
 20 water comes back up.

21 Excuse me, it's interesting -- I was
 22 on a site that had a wet site and also a dry well

1 site, to see the difference in the containers.
 2 There were actually two Christmas trees on the
 3 wet site and one -- they were actually burning
 4 some of the impurities. It looked like a
 5 barbecue grill. You know, it was constantly
 6 burning the impurities off. I was involved with
 7 a group in Garrett County, 500 landowners that
 8 had a very nice lease. The lease fell through
 9 because the economy, you know, trashed, but I
 10 want to reiterate, this is one protection, your
 11 lease is. If you do sign a lease, okay -- 30
 12 seconds, okay, I'm in the Christmas tree
 13 business. My kids are working too hard. They
 14 don't want to grow Christmas trees. They wanted
 15 to set up a summer arts camp and the money from
 16 the lease was going to help them do that. Money
 17 fell apart; the economy wasn't good enough for an
 18 arts camp either, so we didn't do that either.
 19 Thank you very much. I'll put the rest in
 20 writing.

21 * * *

22 (Applause)

* * *

MR. ZIMMERMAN: My name is Jim Zimmerman, Z-I-M-M-E-R-M-A-N. I've written a few letters to the editor.

* * *

(Applause)

* * *

Please don't take that off of my three minutes. You know, when I want protection, when I want real protection, I go to my insurance agent and I don't care whether it's my home, my life, my property, my car, my wife or my kids, that's who I go to. After extended research in the fracking process, I decided to contact my insurance agent. That makes good sense to me. Do you agree? Good. National Casualty Insurance Company, part of the nationwide group of insurance companies, has announced that hydraulic fracturing operations are prohibited in relation to properties that it insures, that's concluded by actuaries, who are accountants for the insurance companies.

Doctor Robert Harper, President of the Insurance Information Institute explained that ~~insurance~~-insurers have no way to control and underwrite actions of the third-party, that's you and me, third-party.

In other words, if you're somewhat concerned about potential impacts from energy development occurring around you and you are in a developmental contract with an energy company, your only option is to receive compensation for something like contamination of your drinking water is to hire an attorney, dispute your claim through the expense of the court system, which is a poor substitute for the assurance of damage control through the course of contract with an insurance provider, and perhaps our government. Jack Driscoll of Driscoll Insurance and Financial Services says this: those in contract with a gas company and adequately linked to their respective company's insurance are in a far better position than you and me. It's from the expectations from which Driscoll suggests could cost you the

non-leasing property owner, hundreds of thousands of dollars in legal expenses.

And by the way, folks, if you want to have your water tested in a way that will protect you, it's going to cost you \$2000 or \$3000.

Thank you.

* * *

(Applause)

* * *

MS. KENNEY: Leo Martin.

MR. MARTIN: Leo Martin, M-A-R-T-I-N. I don't know what you do after that, but I'm the Mayor of Mountain Lake Park, which is the largest town in largest county in the state of Maryland.

* * *

(Laughter)

* * *

In March of 2011, we found the state of Maryland, a little behind the eight ball on gas drilling, and we passed an ordinance in Mountain Lake Park in the town and county that

bans drilling in our town. We went through -- somebody mentioned drilling in Garrett County in the 1950s, and they act like it had no impact on the County. Believe me, it did, in our town. They were drilling wells in people's backyards and it was a mess. When they left, when these limited partnerships caved in and left town, they left their equipment, they left their trash, they left their mud ponds and everything else. So we learned a lesson, and I think one of the best scientific things you can do is act on experience. We've had the experience, and we don't want it again. We don't want our town trashed again, and we're not going to allow it.

We'll fight this until the devil comes home. Your job as a Commission is a lot simpler than people tonight have said. Your job is to recommend pollution or no pollution. Your job is to recommend trashing the County or not trashing the County and most of us here tonight hope that you will recommend that they not trash our county.

1 Thank you very much.

2 * * *

3 (Applause)

4 * * *

5 MS. KENNEY: Next will be
6 James Smokey Stanton, Melissa O'Neal, Nancy
7 Nimmich and Joyce Bishoff.

8 MS. BEELAR: My name is
9 Barbara Beelar, B-E-E-L-A-R. I'm with Friends of
10 Deep Creek Lake. I welcome you back to the
11 County. A week ago Friends of Deep Creek Lake
12 held a forum here at the college, inviting people
13 who were both for drilling, supporting drilling
14 and people who were concerned about its impact in
15 the County and other people who had particular
16 expertise. I will tell you 125 people crowded a
17 room, spoke respectfully to each other, listened
18 to each other. We had three hours of
19 conversation and it was a marvelous event because
20 I think people in this county, we all want to
21 figure out how to work on this together and we
22 need your help.

1 With regard to Friends of Deep Creek
2 Lake, you heard about tourism and the impact that
3 occurs in the county. It is the second highest
4 tourist destination in the state. This is very
5 important. There is another specter, which is
6 not being talked about, which are the property
7 owners here in Garrett County who are lake
8 related. They generate 56 percent of the tax
9 revenues for the county. This is not a small
10 amount of money. If there are impacts directly
11 to Deep Creek Lake and the Deep Creek Lake
12 watershed as a result of drilling, if there is a
13 reduction in the natural resources, the quality
14 of life, the attraction in the whole county, that
15 will have an impact on the economic and the Deep
16 Creek base economy, which exists now.

17 I hope that as you all go forward,
18 you do heed as other people have spoken, please
19 take a look at the economics of this issue and
20 what the impacts are going to be. A member of
21 the Real Estate Board here has done -- made a big
22 effort to try to find, is there a model, is there

1 something that's comparable to Deep Creek Lake
2 and Garrett County elsewhere in the country where
3 you have a resort oriented economy and then
4 drilling comes in. He's not been able to find a
5 model. So that means we've got to do our
6 modeling and we have to do it well. We have to
7 do it independently. I urge you to add that to
8 your agenda.

9 Thank you very much for coming.

10 * * *

11 (Applause)

12 * * *

13 MR. STANTON: Thank you. My
14 name is Jim Stanton. You spell that S-M-O-K-E-Y.
15 I would like to thank the Commissioners and the
16 Chairman for doing two things. Again, this is a
17 larger crowd than we usually have. We thank you
18 for holding the meeting in Garrett County,
19 especially this particular evening meeting so
20 that many of the different perspectives can
21 actually be heard.

22 * * *

1 (Applause)

2 * * *

3 And I'll be very brief, I don't want
4 to repeat what you've heard so far. Just a
5 little bit different take on it, you are now
6 moving into the report writing stage and you all
7 will be receiving recommendations, best
8 practices, this, that and the other, and it's
9 going to be very important, although it has not
10 been mentioned to pay attention to gaps and
11 overlaps between the state and county. Yes, you
12 are a state commission, but I would ask your
13 report to also pay attention to what you're
14 expecting, and what you're anticipating out of
15 local government.

16 It's going to take a coordination and
17 collaboration, no doubt, that in this particular
18 thing it's going to take some real thoughtful
19 consideration, either something gets left out or
20 we have to pay for it at the county level. And I
21 know that the two Commissioners don't want to
22 keep shoving that over on us. So, again, thank

1 you for holding this meeting and for continuing
2 to hold the meetings in Garrett County.

3 Thank you.

4 * * *

5 (Applause)

6 * * *

7 MS. O'NEAL: Hello, I'm

8 Melissa O'Neal, O-N-E-A-L. There are so many
9 different things that I can talk about tonight,
10 but I wanted to focus just a little bit on my
11 concerns over the waste handling with regards to
12 the frack water. As many of you are probably
13 already aware, the Energy Act of 2005 exempted
14 pretty much anything that comes back out of the
15 hole or was utilized in the process. All of that
16 is exempt from the Hazardous Waste Regulations,
17 which the trucks that are hauling or if they're
18 piping it to a centralized waste facility, or
19 even if they're moving it to another site, the
20 trucks are just marked with residual waste.
21 They're not marked as hazardous waste and it's
22 not handled as such regardless of the

1 concentrations of the contaminants that are in
2 it.

3 I'm just curious to know what

4 Maryland would do to step up to the plate and try
5 to close the Halliburton loophole a little bit,
6 and maybe some requirements for regulation of the
7 waste handling, for accounting for every drop of
8 waste, whether they're piping it from one site to
9 another, or if they're trucking it or what
10 they're doing with it.

11 Also, I wanted to talk about the

12 solid waste. That's another part of the waste.
13 Are they going to go to our local county
14 landfill? If so, will the leachates that come
15 out of there impact the current ~~MDDES~~-NPDES permits that
16 the landfill has? What residuals are they
17 testing for? Will they be scanning for
18 radioactive materials? Some are ~~seem~~+NORM,
19 naturally occurring -- will the radioactivity be
20 coming out? How are they going to handle that?

21 Another thing is that they're exempt

22 from what most folks know as the Superfund. They

1 don't have to clean up if there is something
2 horrible that happens. I think that we've all
3 seen or experienced towns like Compton and
4 ~~Kitamere-Kitzmilller~~ that were once thriving communities that
5 have been left with abandoned mine lands and it's
6 the responsibility of the state to clean it up.
7 And I just hope that that's a lesson that we've
8 learned in terms of allowing an unregulated
9 industry to make money.

10 Thank you.

11 * * *

12 (Applause)

13 * * *

14 MS. NIMMICH: Hi. I've been

15 called a professional volunteer. I'm also a
16 professional healthcare provider.

17 MR. VANKO: Your name?

18 MS. NIMMICH: I'm sorry.

19 Nancy Elizabeth Nimmich, N, like Nancy,
20 I-M-M-I-C-H. So what I wanted to do first of all
21 is to thank you as volunteers for putting all the
22 time and energy that you have expended and are

1 continuing to expend into this effort to look
2 into practices that will provide safety for our
3 citizens.

4 As I listened to a lot of things, I

5 have many concerns. One is the permitting
6 process. Another is the regulations, but perhaps
7 most importantly, will be the enforcement of the
8 regulations that come along. I think about the
9 coal disasters in adjacent states where people's
10 lives were lost just from the mine accidents, and
11 then you hear about all the regulations that were
12 ignored and all the ones that were issued and
13 nothing was done, and lives were lost. Lives are
14 lost around the mines all the time.

15 I don't want to see that happen in

16 this community. I don't want to see it happen
17 anywhere. And I think that we have a moral
18 obligation to look into how to do things that we
19 can best avoid from happening. I personally
20 think a legislative moratorium is the best way to
21 honor that moral imperative, do no harm. I
22 thought about, you know, being in the healthcare

1 profession since 1978, I've seen what informed
 2 consent requires. You know, you go to the
 3 surgeon and he has to tell you the risks and
 4 benefits of the surgery. He has to explain
 5 things well enough for you to understand. That
 6 is never done when people are approached by the
 7 gas companies for leases. So I think that,
 8 there, again, we have an obligation to protect
 9 the unprotected and I just want to thank you for
 10 what you're doing and beg you to continue doing
 11 it in a way that protects us all.

12 * * *

13 (Applause)

14 * * *

15 MS. BISHOFF: Good evening.

16 My name is Joyce Bishoff, B-I-S-H-O-F-F, and our
 17 family owns and operates a dairy farm in the area
 18 that has been in the family since 1879. Our
 19 children are the fifth generation. I understand
 20 the development of the Marcellus shale is a
 21 complicated subject, and part of the conversation
 22 that I feel is missing is the fact that many of

1 us locally have been working on this issue for
 2 some years now. In June of 2009, I attended a
 3 meeting at Frostburg State University on this
 4 subject; this was sponsored by the Garrett and
 5 Allegany County Chambers of Commerce, Frostburg
 6 State University, Garrett College, the Greater
 7 Cumberland Committee and Garrett and Allegany
 8 Extension sponsored this.

9 This was followed by a similar
 10 meeting at Garrett College in September of 2009
 11 and in and around those meetings there were
 12 numerous educational seminars found around the
 13 county to help landowners understand the process,
 14 the risks and benefits, the possible pitfalls and
 15 ways to protect themselves.

16 During that same period, the group of
 17 which you are well aware, bargained to lease
 18 30,000 acres, give or take, which would have
 19 netted almost \$30 million to landowners here in
 20 the county. The lease was negotiated with
 21 respect to term, royalty and issues, such as
 22 right-of-ways, and unification of properties and

1 many of us felt that we were well represented.
 2 These leases were not picked up due to the
 3 economic conditions at the time, which we have
 4 discussed again here this evening.

5 Much of the dialogue is over the
 6 environmental impact of drilling. There will
 7 absolutely be issues that we have got to address
 8 and control just as there are in any other type
 9 of commercial or industrial development. There
 10 are impacts to developing housing, building golf
 11 courses, setting up box stores or building roads.
 12 These are things that we are willing to accept.
 13 Garrett County has a long history of mineral and
 14 natural resource development and for those of us
 15 who have spent generations here, we are seeing
 16 that we did a pretty fair job of preserving the
 17 pristine nature of our area.

18 We also feel that we have the
 19 determination to protect it through the process
 20 of further development of the natural gas
 21 industry. For the concern that this is a
 22 detriment to all for the benefit of a few, I

1 would vociferously disagree with that premise.

2 As leases are signed and royalties
 3 are earned, that money will, first of all, be
 4 very generously taxed by the state of Maryland.
 5 As purchases are made, our local businesses will
 6 benefit and sales tax will be generated.

7 Our community has benefited from the
 8 generosity and the willingness of our population
 9 to support our local hospital, college, fire
 10 department, emergency response, and nonprofit
 11 organizations for decades. I see no reason why
 12 they would not continue to do that if they had
 13 the need. I think it's our responsibility to help
 14 represent the many property owners that have
 15 worked long and hard through the good times and
 16 bad times, to maintain their assets, who now feel
 17 disenfranchised by this process.

18 This is an issue of balance. How can
 19 we safeguard our area, while harvesting in a
 20 guarded and protected manner another resource in
 21 a fiscally responsible manner over the next 50 to
 22 100 years?

1 We absolutely can do this, but we
2 need to be working toward solutions and let the
3 process move forward.

4 Thank you very much.

5 * * *

6 (Applause)

7 * * *

8 MS. KENNEY: Wanda Reynolds,
9 Elizabeth McDowell, and Barbara Gafney.

10 MS. REYNOLDS: Wanda
11 Reynolds, R-E-Y-N-O-L-D-S. I really have very
12 little to add. I think I just wanted to add the
13 fact that I am against the drilling. I just want
14 to be recorded that I'm a landowner and that I
15 moved here almost 20 years ago for a lot of peace
16 and quiet, and I'd like to retain that, and that
17 I am against the drilling.

18 * * *

19 (Applause)

20 * * *

21 MS. MCDOWELL: Liz McDowell,
22 M-C-D-O-W-E-L-L. I live near New Germany and I

1 chose to live here over 30 years ago. It is said
2 that good fences make good neighbors, and up to
3 now all my husband and I have needed around the
4 boundary of our property is a little blue paint.
5 That was all we needed because for the most part,
6 folks in Garrett County respect private property
7 lines, but fracking is indeed a game changer and
8 a little blue paint simply won't work anymore.

9 We know where to buy the fence that
10 keeps weasels out of our chicken coop and where
11 to buy the fence to keep the deer out of our
12 garden. But I'm here tonight to ask you where
13 can we buy the fencing that will keep the
14 quantity and quality of our well water safe?
15 Where do we buy fencing that would keep out the
16 air, noise, and like pollution associated with
17 fracking away from our homes and families? Until
18 this type of fencing or protection is available,
19 then any fracking in my neighborhood will very
20 likely impact my property rights. My husband and
21 I own almost 70 acres of farmland. We're good
22 stewards of the land and we were asked to sign a

1 gas lease, and chose not to.

2 So my final question is, why do we
3 have to buy any fence at all? We shouldn't have
4 to buy protection.

5 Thank you.

6 * * *

7 (Applause)

8 * * *

9 MS. KENNEY: Our next
10 speakers will be Paul Fletcher, Stefan Moylan and
11 Bill Aikman.

12 MS. GAFNEY: My name is
13 Barbara Gafney. I live also by New Germany.
14 First of all, I'd like to thank the Governor's
15 Commission for being present here this evening
16 and hearing our comments both pro and con. I
17 understand the landowners' rights to do with
18 their land as long as it doesn't harm anyone else
19 or their land. I am against Marcellus shale
20 drilling in Garrett County because I do not feel
21 there are enough safeguards in place to assure
22 that an environmental catastrophe does not occur.

1 There are not enough environmental
2 people to oversee the daily operations of all the
3 drilling pads that will be in Garrett County. We
4 do not have the same first responders that are
5 present down East in the rest of the state to
6 respond to any accident or environmental
7 catastrophe. There are no consistent controls
8 that I am aware of to ensure that all of the gas
9 companies who will be allowed to drill here will
10 have to adhere to. I have heard of no
11 responsibility of the gas companies to repair our
12 roads, which are not built in this county to
13 withstand the constant bombardment of the trucks
14 that will be carrying water, chemicals, etcetera,
15 in and out of Garrett County.

16 As a registered nurse, I am very
17 concerned about the health issues from the
18 fracking solution, which will be held in open
19 pits exposed to the air and our groundwater. I
20 applaud Governor O'Malley for the time that has
21 been allowed to study all of these and many more
22 issues concerning Marcellus shale.

1 I am asking the Governor not to allow
 2 Marcellus shale drilling in Garrett County,
 3 unless we can be assured that all gas companies
 4 drilling in Garrett County will be held to the
 5 same very stringent environmental laws and that
 6 any and all damages will be paid for by the
 7 offending gas companies. I would also suggest to
 8 the Governor that all of the participating gas
 9 companies drilling in Garrett County be required
 10 to be heavily bonded.

11 Thank you.

12 * * *

13 (Applause)

14 * * *

15 MR. FLETCHER: My name is
 16 Paul Fletcher, F-L-E-T-C-H-E-R, and my concerns
 17 are -- because of so many other comments you've
 18 heard, my concern will go to enforcement, not
 19 only enforcement of the drilling activities that
 20 are going on, but also the traffic, the truck
 21 traffic, the enforcement by police that I don't
 22 think is adequate to support the enforcement

1 requirements that will come up as a result of the
 2 extraordinary new traffic coming to the county.

3 Thank you.

4 * * *

5 (Applause)

6 * * *

7 MR. MOYLAN: Good evening.

8 I'm Stefan Moylan, M-O-Y-L-A-N.

9 I want to thank you all for doing
 10 this. As citizens of Garrett County, we are all
 11 concerned with this issue and we are all
 12 concerned to hear the truth, and industry doesn't
 13 give us the truth. They make the science, they
 14 -- you know, with Penn State, they fund the
 15 schools, they create their statistics, they
 16 change the facts that they want to disclose and
 17 they show up in Annapolis, because we don't. We
 18 are here, but some of us do but most of us won't
 19 drive to Annapolis and participate in the
 20 process.

21 They don't take an oath when they
 22 testify in Annapolis. They don't have to give us

1 the truth. They just use their bodies and their
 2 money. I want to thank Brigid for her work and
 3 the very informative MDE report. I want you to
 4 be careful when you assess her report, the MDE
 5 report, because they're not -- always not biased.

6 This diagram I saw today, MDE
 7 presentation, there was at least one diagram from
 8 the chief oil -- there was one quoting, small
 9 explosions. I don't know how small. Please tell
 10 me. I don't know what kind of explosions, I'd
 11 would like to know.

12 Chemicals on the pie chart were
 13 characterized as being very small, and I know
 14 Brigid is a state employee, and I'm sure she does
 15 very good work. It was a very informative thing,
 16 but I'm wondering how many or how much small
 17 poisons my children need to drink to get sick,
 18 but it would probably be pretty small.

19 Often state and federal employees,
 20 especially in this industry, are -- they get
 21 employed by the state and then they get appointed
 22 by industry and then the government says, you

1 know, we need an industry person to be part of
 2 our team of geologists or whatever they need and
 3 they'll hire an industry person. So sometimes
 4 the state's own people are biased and they are,
 5 you know, state employees, so they might want to
 6 get back into industry.

7 Thank you.

8 Like anyone here, I'm biased by my
 9 experience. I went to Annapolis to fight for the
 10 industry, and I've been called an Indian. I
 11 bought a little piece of paradise because it's
 12 beautiful. One of the challenges in the
 13 presentation would be that people don't want to
 14 come here to raise their kids. They won't want
 15 to move into a place where their kids can't drink
 16 the water. Mr. Stacy says water goes into a
 17 truck. Well, where does that water go? And what
 18 is that going to -- what is the water that's left
 19 there for my kids to drink? Go slow. Get the
 20 truth. I'm counting on you to find the truth.

21 MR. VANKO: Okay, thanks.

22 * * *

1 (Applause)

2 * * *

3 MS. KENNEY: I'm having
4 trouble reading this name. The first name is
5 Bill, and it's either A-I- or I.

6 Thank you.

7 MR. AIKEN: My name is Bill
8 Aiken. I have a farm in Accident, Maryland.
9 I've had gas wells, three gas wells as neighbors
10 for the last 50 years. I worked in West
11 Virginia. I worked for the West Virginia Farm
12 Bureau. I worked a lot with oil and gas issues
13 that pertains to the surface, and also the
14 mineral end. You know, Marcellus shale presents
15 a great economic opportunity, if it's done right.
16 We must develop regulations that are clear, that
17 are enforceable, that are based on sound science
18 and best management practices. Regulations need
19 to address the drilling process, the building of
20 pads and roads, wastewater -- wastewater disposal
21 of the water used to frack the wells.
22 Regulations should also address adequate

1 compensation for the services rendered for
2 damages that may occur during the drilling
3 process. Drilling can be done with minimal
4 environmental impact and can have a lot of great
5 economic damage -- or without a lot of great
6 environmental damage.

7 I've seen drilling in areas that have
8 helped to preserve farmland. It provided sources
9 of income, it's increased jobs, it's increased
10 the tax base, and it's provided a low cost energy
11 to a lot of people. I would much rather have a
12 gas well as a neighbor than somebody building a
13 new house. Somebody that builds a new house
14 draws from the aquifer every day. They store
15 thousands of gallons of sewage within hundreds of
16 feet from my aquifer. They put fertilizer on
17 their yard; they have a floodlight that's on all
18 night. I like darkness. That's why I live in
19 the country.

20 Their dog runs on my property. Their
21 kid has a four-wheeler running across it. Their
22 septic tank poses much, much, more proven danger

1 to my water than a gas well ever done. In West
2 Virginia, there's never been one confirmed case
3 of groundwater contamination from the fracking of
4 a Marcellus well. But I guarantee you -- you
5 know, one of the things, an old Jimmy Davis song
6 that used to say, company's coming, take the cold
7 tater and wait. Well, I'm not going to take the
8 cold tater because company is coming.

9 Thank you.

10 * * *

11 (Applause)

12 * * *

13 MS. KENNEY: Brenda Smith,
14 Nicole Christian, Bob Riley and --

15 MS. SMITH: Good evening. My
16 name is Brenda Smith, S-M-I-T-H, and I'm
17 representing The Greater Cumberland Committee.

18 For those of you who are familiar
19 with our organization, we were established in
20 2000. We are -- we cover three states and five
21 counties and Allegany and Garrett are two of the
22 counties that we cover. I serve as their

1 executive director, and today we are 80 members
2 strong, representing local businesses, government
3 agencies, civic associations and private
4 investors, and regional relevance is very
5 important to our organization. It's the
6 cornerstone of our core goals and objectives.

7 Our interest in Marcellus shale began
8 about five years ago. It started as an extension
9 of our partnership work with various government
10 agencies related to a regional water resources
11 project that included water quality issues. The
12 impact and benefits of Marcellus shale drilling
13 was introduced into the conversation and we then
14 took the opportunity of our experience in working
15 with our other partners to learn more about the
16 harvesting of natural gas through the horizontal
17 drilling process.

18 Through the course of time, a number
19 of academic and industry experts have made formal
20 presentations to our organization, including the
21 Stronger -- Group, the State Review of Natural
22 Gas Environmental Regulations to openly share

1 their reviews and results of neighboring states
2 to determine proven strategies for successful
3 drilling efforts.

4 In January 2012, The Greater
5 Cumberland Committee took a formal position after
6 polling its 80 plus membership and received a
7 unanimous vote to offer the following position in
8 support of Marcellus shale. As a business based
9 regional organization covering three states and
10 five counties, including Allegany and Garrett and
11 the westernmost part of Maryland, The Greater
12 Cumberland Committee envisions a vibrant region
13 where population growth is supported by strategic
14 economic development. We recognize that by
15 utilizing many of the best practices developed by
16 our neighbors in Pennsylvania and West Virginia,
17 as well as acknowledging Maryland's existing
18 current regulatory requirements already in place,
19 responsible drilling of Marcellus shale is a
20 necessary vehicle to aggressively move our region
21 and the entire state of Maryland forward. Time
22 is of the essence, and by working together;

1 Maryland can enjoy the huge economic benefit
2 obtained by the creation of a large revenue
3 stream that will result in job creation and the
4 potential for lowering taxes in the future and to
5 infrastructure improvements.

6 Furthermore, The Greater Cumberland
7 Committee's Marcellus shale work group properly
8 considered many of the issues raised by concerned
9 citizens and worked diligently to put together a
10 frequently asked questions list. I have got a
11 copy of that for everyone. I'll give them to
12 Brigid.

13 In closing, we feel the window is
14 closing, that the level of interest in Western
15 Maryland is diminishing, and that time is truly
16 of the essence, and we thank the Advisory
17 Commission for your diligence and your efforts in
18 this regard.

19 Thank you.

20 * * *
21 (Applause)
22 * * *

1 MS. CHRISTIAN: Nicole
2 Christian, President and CEO of the Garrett
3 County Chamber of Commerce.

4 The Garrett County Chamber is the
5 largest professional business association in our
6 region, and we are governed by a 15-member board
7 of directors that is elected by our full
8 membership. In March of this year, our board did
9 adopt a position to support the safe and
10 responsible development of shale gas. And I am
11 here to support that position for our board of
12 directors and on behalf of our membership.

13 That does not mean that it is what
14 every single member believes, but I can tell you
15 that after producing this position and developing
16 a white paper, I've only received five responses
17 in opposition to it.

18 I do want to make a clarification on
19 something that was mentioned earlier. You
20 received a copy of a study that the Chamber
21 conducted in 2009. It was a one-year study, not
22 a two-year study, and it was a study on tourism

1 and nowhere in the report does it say that people
2 are concerned about over-development. So it does
3 help us -- it was really for marketing efforts.
4 It's a great study, and it will show you what
5 people believe are important aspects of our
6 county, but tourism is extremely strong.

7 We are having a record year. Our
8 tourism industry is not lagging as some have
9 said.

10 In fact, all indications are that we
11 are one of the leading tourist destinations in
12 the state. The Chamber believes that shale gas
13 development and tourism can coexist, and can be
14 done correctly.

15 Thank you.

16 * * *
17 (Applause)
18 * * *

19 MS. KENNEY: William Bishoff,
20 Bob Sharp, Pat Riley and Marsha Tirocke.

21 MR. BISHOFF: I'm Billy
22 Bishoff and I guess I will --

1 MR. VANKO: Spell your last
 2 name, please.

3 MR. BISHOFF: B-I-S-H-O-F-F.

4 I guess I'm going to talk about the
 5 position of the Garrett County Farm Bureau a
 6 little bit tonight. We have some members here;
 7 maybe they would raise their hands? And maybe
 8 the people here who would support reasonable and
 9 safe development of Marcellus would raise their
 10 hands?

11 The Garrett County Farm Bureau has
 12 always supported the safe development of the
 13 Marcellus. Many of our members have leases. We
 14 feel that we have responsibly evaluated this
 15 process and have agreed to sign the leases.
 16 Furthermore, there are more than 130,000 acres
 17 under lease in the county, and I would presume
 18 that most of those people came to the same
 19 conclusion.

20 It bothers me a little bit that
 21 people claim that the state doesn't have any
 22 money or this process will not produce any money.

1 I think it is state law that MDE must recover all
 2 costs from regulating this process from fees and
 3 fines. Is that correct?

4 MS. KENNEY: That's what the
 5 ~~current~~ applications ~~seek~~ fees will cover.

6 MR. BISHOFF: Okay, but they
 7 are required to recover all their costs.
 8 Furthermore, we will pay five and a half percent
 9 in local severance tax, which we fully support.
 10 We would like to give back to our community if we
 11 benefit. It is also our policy to support a two
 12 and a half percent state severance tax to help
 13 backstop this process and make sure that the DNR
 14 is well-funded, if they need it.

15 We, from the very start, through our
 16 existence in Garrett County have respected the
 17 regulatory process and the power of MDE, and we
 18 felt that they could do this job from the
 19 beginning, and that's why we have opposed a
 20 moratorium and we have, I guess, in essence,
 21 opposed the existence of the Commission. And
 22 I'll give you a little homily. If your

1 significant other comes to you and says, honey, I
 2 want you to wear pink underwear on Wednesday.
 3 You might not just say no. You're going to say,
 4 let's talk about it. And eventually, if you talk
 5 about it long enough, you're going to hope that
 6 she's going to stop asking you to wear pink
 7 underwear on Wednesdays.

8 So we feel that the MDE has done a
 9 very good job with the coal industry and many
 10 other industries that exist in our area, and we
 11 would like to see them move forward with this
 12 process and see what they can do before we tell
 13 them they can't. I think it also should be well
 14 recognized that this industry will be heavily
 15 bonded, and that your water will be guaranteed,
 16 and we are hoping that they will establish a two
 17 and a half percent state tax so that if those
 18 bonds fail, something happens to the company,
 19 there will be a money reserve to take care of it.

20 This is our community. We exist in
 21 it and have for a long time, and we want to take
 22 care of it too.

1 Thank you.

2 * * *

3 (Applause)

4 * * *

5 MS. KENNEY: Bob Sharp,
 6 followed by Pat Riley and Marsha Tirocke.

7 MR. SHARP: Hi. I'm Bob
 8 Sharp. I live up in Accident. S-H-A-R-P.

9 I don't want to get ahead of the
 10 curve, everybody's talking about Marcellus shale.
 11 So I go down and contact Garrett County Public
 12 Utilities. I said what do I need to get a
 13 baseline on the excellent water I've got now.
 14 Everybody comes to my house, Bob; you've got the
 15 greatest water. It's cold, fresh. I get an
 16 e-mail back saying, attached is the price list
 17 showing the parameters that Penn State University
 18 has recommended for the testing concern with
 19 regard to Marcellus shale gas well drilling.

20 And I'm guessing if you've got a
 21 problem, they're drilling by, start looking for
 22 this. Well, what you start looking for, the

1 shortlist is your pH, barium, chloride, methane,
 2 totally dissolved solids and then it goes into
 3 the other parameters, total suspended, iron,
 4 manganese, hardness, sodium, total organic Carbon,
 5 ~~carbon~~-strontium, arsenic, alkalinity, ~~ehi~~ehi~~er~~er~~o~~o~~f~~f~~o~~o~~r~~r~~m~~m~~-~~-~~c~~c~~o~~o~~l~~l~~i~~i~~f~~f~~o~~o~~r~~r~~m~~m
 6 bacteria, sulfate, nitrate, lead, oil and grease.
 7 And then I didn't even know that it went here,
 8 radio nuclei, Gross Alpha radioactivity, Gross
 9 beta, ~~red~~red~~ia~~ia~~m~~m-226, ~~red~~red~~ia~~ia~~m~~m-228, which I know that's
 10 damn near around -- and volatile organics.

11 I think they've got our job. I
 12 really want -- we've got one chance to get this
 13 right. If we screw up, this aquifer fills not
 14 just one well, -- I live by a lady in the cove,
 15 my well is over here, her well is over there, we
 16 ain't within that presumptuous 2500 feet. We're
 17 in the same aquifer. So once we take the aquifer
 18 -- I don't know, you just want to tell me, oh,
 19 we'll let it clear up. You ain't going to clear
 20 it up. Mother Nature is going to have to clear
 21 it up, and I can't wait for Mother Nature. All
 22 right.

1 Thank you.

2 * * *

3 (Applause)

4 * * *

5 MR. RILEY: My name is

6 Patrick Riley. It's R-I-L-E-Y.

7 I've lived in Garrett County for the
 8 last 48 years. I happen to be a Republican. I'm
 9 not sure who's going to define safe and
 10 reasonable. I believe that most of us in this
 11 room would have somewhat different definitions of
 12 safe and reasonable. I believe in freedom and
 13 liberty. I'm opposed to the government closing
 14 -- over-regulation on my property. I've stood up
 15 here and said, I don't want something, but I'm
 16 also concerned that our traditional common-law
 17 methods of making sure that our freedom of
 18 peaceably enjoying our property is going to stand
 19 up to these large corporations with unlimited
 20 pockets in court.

21 If my neighbor is creating a
 22 disturbance at midnight and I call the Sheriff's

1 Department, most likely they're going to show up.
 2 But I can tell you right now, if you call the
 3 Sheriff about the gas drilling company or about
 4 the compressors stationed out in Accident at
 5 Texas Eastern out there when they're doing the
 6 certain loud processing that goes on for days,
 7 they're not coming. I believe the core of this
 8 issue is if you have determined or if the
 9 government has determined corporations are legal
 10 persons, they should also be liable to the same
 11 criminal law that I am if I injure my neighbor,
 12 and not just give them a little slap on the wrist
 13 fine.

14 * * *

15 (Applause)

16 * * *

17 I know I have limited time. Safe and
 18 reasonable noise and traffic, you know, we talked
 19 about the length of time it takes to drill and
 20 complete one well, I've heard different amounts
 21 of time, saying five months, four months,
 22 something like that for one well. What if my

1 neighbor's pad is going to have 10 wells on it?
 2 Do you believe it's reasonable for me as a
 3 neighbor to endure 24/7 noise, light and air
 4 pollution on my property, say 2500 feet away for
 5 40 or 50 months? Does the Farm Bureau think
 6 that's reasonable? Because that could happen; in
 7 other communities, it has happened.

8 I've heard there's up to 12 wells on
 9 a pad. So we're stuck with each other for a
 10 while, people on both sides of this issue.
 11 Personally, I don't think that with the
 12 technology and where we stand that Marcellus
 13 shale drilling will be safe and reasonable, and
 14 there are Republicans as well as Democrats who
 15 are concerned and want to continue to enjoy our
 16 property peacefully.

17 Thank you.

18 * * *

19 (Applause)

20 * * *

21 MS. KENNEY: Next, ~~Alan Olen~~
 22 Beitzel, Delmar Yoder and Carl Bender.

1 MS. TIROCKE: Hi. Mt name is
2 Marsha Tirocke, T-I-R-O-C-K-E.

3 I really don't have much to add to
4 what Mr. Riley said in his three minutes and I
5 really think that we should have a moratorium
6 until it's safe, really safe.

7 Thank you.

8 * * *
9 (Applause)

10 * * *
11 MR. BEITZEL: I'm ~~Olan-Olen~~
12 Beitzel, B-E-I-T-Z-E-L, and I'm really glad to be
13 here and listen to people that are adamant and
14 they are willing to say what's on their mind, and
15 it makes me feel free to say what's on my mind
16 also. I've been a resident of the county.
17 Tomorrow morning, if I see the sun come up, it
18 will be 72 years, so it's been a while. I didn't
19 want anyone to sing happy birthday to me.

20 But I have confidence in the DNR,
21 regulators and our legislation and I've been
22 involved in some meetings with coal people, and

1 there always seems to be a host of what ifs and
2 those are hard to put a finger on and to say for
3 sure. So I think what I've realized in the coal
4 arena, it got done, and it appears to have been
5 done right, and I see the product moving down the
6 road and it looks like it's in order.

7 So I just sat here this evening and
8 kind of wondered, back when Deep Creek Lake was
9 developed, were there people that opposed the
10 lake? And if those people would not have allowed
11 the lake to be here, this beautiful place, and
12 it's a great energy and economic development
13 machine for Garrett County, but somebody had to
14 let it happen and help it happen to build it
15 right. So I'm interested, and I support the
16 drilling done right.

17 Thank you.

18 * * *
19 (Applause)

20 * * *
21 MR. YODER: I'm Delmar Yoder,
22 Y-O-D-E-R, and I've been a resident of Garrett

1 County for all my life and I just want to
2 reiterate what Mr. Beitzel said. I think he's
3 done a great job of saying everything, so the
4 only thing I want to add is that I have acreage
5 here in Garrett County and I think a lot of my
6 property -- do I want my property messed up? No.
7 Do I want my water messed up? No. And
8 personally I think that it can be done, and it
9 can be done safely.

10 Thank you.

11 * * *
12 (Applause)

13 * * *
14 MS. KENNEY: Carl Bender,
15 after that Derek Johnson, Floyd Ellis and David
16 Moe.

17 MR. BENDER: Thank you.
18 Thank you for letting me have time to speak a
19 little bit. I'm Carl Bender, B-E-N-D-E-R. I
20 live in Accident and we own approximately 500
21 acres and maybe lease another 1000. We're dairy
22 farmers. I've got sons that want to keep

1 farming. We have six gas wells on our farm right
2 now. At least one of them has been done
3 horizontally, and I wouldn't want any better
4 neighbors than what Texas Eastern is. We live
5 within a half a mile from the pumping station.
6 The noise is not bad. I enjoy that noise a lot
7 better than them little cars that got them blown
8 out mufflers that take off and have about five
9 gears to shift in them.

10 So I've been with the Texas -- I
11 mean, a neighbor of Texas Eastern, and I'll tell
12 you, they have treated me very well. I couldn't
13 ask for better neighbors and I would like to see
14 it -- I think if Marcellus would be able to -- if
15 we would be able to lease it, I don't think I'd
16 get a dime from it because we're within the
17 Accident area, but I very much support it because
18 I've seen what the gas wells have done in our
19 neighborhood.

20 Thank you.

21 * * *
22 (Applause)

* * *

1 MR. JOHNSON: My name is
2 Derek, D-E-R-E-K, Johnson, J-O-H-N-S-O-N. I'm a
3 disabled veteran. I bought property up here last
4 year. I'm retired. I know a lot of people don't
5 like to deal with the what ifs. I like to deal
6 with what happens and what has happened with me,
7 one of my neighbors drilled test cores for coal
8 on his property. Here's my aquifer and killed my
9 well. \$4000 worth of water filtration equipment
10 later, I can drink and bathe in the water that
11 comes out of my well again. And I want to see
12 safe, more than anything because they're going to
13 come and they're going to drill. It's going to
14 happen and we need to do everything that we
15 possibly can to make sure that it is done safely
16 and responsibly, and the state and the county
17 needs to make sure that they have regulations in
18 place, enforcement in place and investigation of
19 these regulations violations, so that they can be
20 made to pay for what they destroy. I've been out
21 West. I have seen what they leave behind in

1 Oklahoma, Montana and Colorado and you can go
2 over to Pennsylvania and you can see what they're
3 doing up there too.

4 Thank you.

5 * * *

6 (Applause)

7 * * *

8 MS. KENNEY: Floyd Ellis.

9 MR. ELLIS: My name is Floyd
10 Ellis, E-L-L-I-S. I was born and raised in
11 Garrett County. I've lived here pretty near all
12 my life. I went to West Virginia to live for 11
13 years. I'm going to back up in history. In
14 1955, I graduated from Northern High School. The
15 first job I had in Garrett County when I
16 graduated was Texas Eastern. I worked on their
17 drilling rigs. You people say that in the night
18 because of well drilling noise and all this other
19 stuff. Gas wells, the drilling outfits I worked
20 for was Delta and they were from Oklahoma. Their
21 first thing was safety on their drilling, on
22 their employees and if there was a problem

1 happened, it was shut down and taken care of.

2 The second job I had in Garrett
3 County was working on strip jobs. On strip jobs,
4 every job that was started had to be bonded. If
5 that coal company moves out, they don't get their
6 bond money back. That was made plain by the
7 state. (unintelligible), -- you will see where
8 the ground has been left even better than it was
9 before it was stripped.

10 And I heard about Deep Creek Lake,
11 well, I'll tell you a little story about Deep
12 Creek Lake. Back in the 60's, when I worked for
13 Jerry Glotfelty, I used to go down to Deep Creek
14 Lake and go swimming and I went boat riding and
15 after the summer was over and people would pull
16 their boats out, and it looked beautiful. Today
17 you talk about tourism, which I don't have a
18 problem with tourism, but you pull a boat out of
19 Deep Creek Lake now and you better have a high
20 ~~(unintelligible)~~ pressure hose to clean that boat.

21 I support drilling in Garrett County,
22 we need the jobs; we need the tax money and the

1 roads in Garrett County were paved, that's when
2 the strip jobs were gone, by the coal companies.
3 I moved out of Garrett County for 11 years and
4 lived in West Virginia. West Virginia has the
5 worst roads, Pennsylvania, I've worked in
6 Pennsylvania, they have lousy roads. The only
7 thing I'm saying is, we need gas drilling for our
8 community, our young people to have jobs. It
9 will help us on our taxes. We already shut down
10 two schools. We need these jobs.

11 Thank you.

12 * * *

13 (Applause)

14 * * *

15 MS. KENNEY: After David Moe,
16 Brooks Hamilton, Jeffrey Nelson and Dawn Poole.

17 MR. MOE: Thank you.

18 My name is David Moe, M-O-E. I'm
19 testifying in favor of Marcellus shale drilling
20 in Garrett County and I have some questions for
21 the Chair, I guess. In this fact-finding mission
22 that this Commission is on, DNR has recently

1 installed some water sampling devices in streams,
 2 and Mr. Bruce Michael made a presentation to the
 3 Deep Creek Lake, you know, the -- last month.
 4 There are two sites in Garrett County where those
 5 sampling devices are downstream from existing
 6 West Virginia natural gas rigs, where they
 7 drilled and they've been there since September of
 8 last year, and Mr. Michael upon my questioning,
 9 reported that there have been no unanticipated
 10 pollutants as a result of those sites at those
 11 sampling stations downstream. So there has been
 12 no impact downstream in known West Virginia drill
 13 sites in Garrett County, in Garrett County
 14 streams. So has that information been presented
 15 to the Commission?

16 MR. VANKO: Yes, it has.

17 MR. ELLISMOR: Okay. Thank you.

18 MR. VANKO: Sure.

19 MR. ELLISMOR: Also, picking up
 20 on what Mr. Aiken and I stated. My understanding
 21 is that there are approximately 5000 natural gas
 22 wells in neighboring Pennsylvania, and probably a

1 half a million nationwide, and that there have
 2 been no confirmed contamination of water,
 3 aquifers or wells from fracking fluids as opposed
 4 to methane migration. Is the Commission aware of
 5 that?

6 MR. VANKO: Yes.

7 MR. ELLISMOR: And lastly, there
 8 are storage gas wells in Garrett County. Some of
 9 them have actually been drilled vertically,
 10 horizontally and fracked. Is the Commission
 11 aware of those and how many there are?

12 MR. VANKO: No.

13 MR. ELLISMOR: I would
 14 respectfully request that the Commission --
 15 request that data from MDE, because there's been
 16 no impact of that.

17 MR. VANKO: You have 30
 18 seconds.

19 MR. ELLISMOR: Thank you.

20 * * *

21 (Applause)

22 * * *

1 MR. HAMILTON: Brooks
 2 Hamilton, H-A-M-I-L-T-O-N. We've had several
 3 people ask for a legislative moratorium and, in
 4 fact, we already have one by the delay of this
 5 committee not reporting until 2014, there's
 6 nothing going to be done until then. I don't
 7 know where to start. You've heard so much here
 8 tonight, nobody is going to change anybody's
 9 mind, I'm afraid. You know, if there are 100
 10 wells drilled in Garrett County in the next 50
 11 years, there will be less water used than what
 12 Baltimore City uses in one day. They will drill
 13 100 wells and use 400,000,000 gallons of water or
 14 Baltimore City uses 450,000,000 gallons of water
 15 every day.

16 I have a producing gas well on my
 17 farm. There has been no environmental impact.
 18 They drilled three, two produced, the second one
 19 produced for probably 30 years, and the other
 20 one's been producing 50. My grandfather signed
 21 that lease for 12 and a half cents an acre in
 22 1958 is when it was drilled, and it's still

1 producing. I don't -- I think MDE and DNR has --
 2 already has the power to regulate the drilling
 3 and make sure it's done right. Nobody wants to
 4 mess up their land or any neighbor's land. So
 5 let's do it right and let's do it soon.

6 Thank you.

7 * * *

8 (Applause)

9 * * *

10 MS. KENNEY: Jeffrey Nelson.

11 MR. NELSON: Yes, my name is
 12 Jeffrey Nelson, N-E-L-S-O-N. I've been a
 13 resident of Garrett County now for 17 years. I'm
 14 retired from Montgomery County. I moved up here
 15 because we had a house here for a much longer
 16 period of time than that. I'm firmly convinced
 17 that this Commission is doing everything that
 18 they can humanly possibly do and the DNR and MDE
 19 are trying to do all of this right, but whether
 20 or not I support drilling, if it's done right and
 21 responsibly and with minimal possibility of
 22 accidents, that's okay with me.

1 One of the things I learned tonight
2 from the sheet that was passed out that really
3 distresses me is of 20 bills put into the state
4 legislature this year, one of them was passed and
5 I find that unconscionable, and for better or for
6 worse, George, you're the only one here I can
7 really speak to about this. I would really --
8 really like to see more action done in the state
9 legislature this year.

10 Thank you.

11 * * *

12 (Applause)

13 * * *

14 MS. KENNEY: Dawn Pool, Tom
15 Kozikowski, Elliot Smith and Barbara Pritts.

16 MS. POOL: First of all, I'd
17 like to say thank you for all the work --

18 MR. VANKO: Your name?

19 MS. POOL: Pool, P-O-O-L,
20 Dawn.

21 First of all, I'd like to say thank
22 you for the work you have put in because I know

1 you've been laboring long and hard and you've had
2 lots of discussions. I would also like to mirror
3 what was just said before me, because I don't
4 believe or I feel strongly that our legislature
5 has sold out to big industry. I'm a little guy.
6 I'm never going to have the amount of money to
7 pull my rights out if a mistake has been made. I
8 don't know if anybody has looked into the quality
9 of concrete and what it stands up to with the
10 kinds of winters that we experience in Garrett
11 County. I don't know if this mile long drilling
12 hits pockets of perhaps some kind of bacteria
13 that we've never seen before. I mean, obviously,
14 cutting down the rain forests has released
15 different kinds of viruses into an atmosphere
16 that we haven't seen before.

17 I am concerned about Mother Nature
18 because I live and breathe the air and drink the
19 water, as all people do in this county, and I am
20 concerned, and I would err on how the Native
21 Americans felt about decisions being made in the
22 community and that is, are we going to be sure

1 that for seven generations that come forward,
2 that our babies are going to have clean water?
3 One percent of the water on the earth is potable,
4 one percent.

5 How could we even be thinking that we
6 are going to pollute this water for these wells
7 for money for an industry that we're not really
8 going to see the results of? I really believe
9 that with all my soul. I have watched big
10 business, big industry work. I worked for
11 corporate America for many years and let me tell
12 you, the team of lawyers that every one of those
13 huge companies have, teams of lawyers. I worked
14 for a department called Operational Planning and
15 Analysis for Empire Blue Cross/Blue Shield that
16 had 10,000 employees. We must have had 60
17 lawyers on the staff. Why? Because if the
18 little guy sues because the doctor didn't do it
19 right, they were never going to win. The
20 insurance company was going to win.

21 So I say thank you for allowing me to
22 speak. I've spoken from my heart. I am really

1 grateful that we are doing this slowly and
2 intelligently and scientifically based, but I
3 would say I would vote for a moratorium until we
4 get secure science down and model -- a study, you
5 know, let's do a pilot project in 2014, a pilot
6 project, one, and let's see.

7 * * *

8 (Applause)

9 * * *

10 MR. KOZIKOWSKI: Hello, my
11 name is Tom Kozikowski, K-O-Z-I-K-O-W-S-K-I and
12 I'm proud of the work that the Commission has
13 done, and I'm thankful that you've had this forum
14 here tonight. Baseline testing on water has been
15 initiated in Garrett County by the state. I want
16 to encourage more thorough and extensive baseline
17 water and air testing by the state.

18 As a resident of Frostburg in
19 Allegany County, it concerns me that baseline
20 testing has been limited to only Garrett County
21 and has not been initiated in Allegany County and
22 that none is planned for Allegany County.

1 I hope that the state will initiate
2 thorough and extensive baseline testing in
3 Allegany County before drilling begins and as
4 soon as possible.

5 Thank you.

6 * * *

7 (Applause)

8 * * *

9 MS. KENNEY: Elliot Smith.

10 MR. SMITH: Thank you. My
11 name is Elliott Smith, S-M-I-T-H. I'm a current
12 Garrett County resident.

13 14 months ago I worked for a very
14 large corporation from Garrett County and I'd
15 like to start off by saying that it's always
16 comforting to know the Commission and the state
17 of Maryland are looking to lessons learned from
18 our predecessors, but what would be even more
19 awesome would be the analysis of the lessons our
20 successors will take from us. Best practices,
21 you know, again, in a large corporation best
22 practices is another common term and you know

1 sometimes best just isn't good enough.

2 The third thing I like to point out
3 is, until the perfect process is identified and
4 replicated, or until somebody can demonstrate
5 that 100 percent of the lessons that are behind
6 us, or for that matter, even identified, I'll be
7 unable to support anything that threatens another
8 finite resource that currently does not have an
9 alternative. Time, on the other hand, is
10 something we have an ample supply of.

11 So thank you and thank you for a
12 great job.

13 * * *

14 (Applause)

15 * * *

16 MS. PRITTS: Hi. You've
17 heard before, I'll speak quick --

18 MR. VANKO: Your name?

19 MS. PRITTS: Oh, Barbara
20 Pritts, I'm a realtor in Garrett County since
21 1987. Pritts, P-R-I-T-T-S, and if anyone wants
22 to buy a house in beautiful Mountain Lake Park

1 where fracking is banned, call me.

2 * * *

3 (Applause)

4 * * *

5 The concern I have and I should
6 have known about it, but I've been out of town,
7 back and forth to Falls Church, Virginia, but I
8 found out that Deep Creek Lake watershed is open
9 for fracking and this just astounded me that the
10 zoning board would pass that in 2010. So that
11 there are now 18 mineral leases in the Deep Creek
12 Lake watershed.

13 Now, the watershed is determined by a
14 stream that flows into Deep Creek Lake? Our farm
15 has the stream on it. We chose not to have
16 drilling because we love our water, but there is
17 a farm that is in the watershed that touches our
18 farm. So I know the same stream, that's where
19 it's coming from, going to the lake and I'll be
20 80 in December.

21 I've lived in Garrett County all my
22 life, except for going off to Towson to college,

1 and working for the government in the summers, so
2 I would have some money for college, but we used
3 to walk that stream. My brother would say -- we
4 were weeding the garden. I might've been five
5 years old, my sister was seven and he was nine,
6 and he said, I'll make you fishing poles. We'll
7 sneak out behind the barn and go down and fish
8 where now it is the Penn Cove. So, we would
9 follow the stream down in our bare feet, he made
10 fishing poles for Pat and I with a safety pin on
11 the bottom and we actually caught fish, came back
12 so proud, but we got spanked, it was through my
13 overalls with a flyswatter. It was worth it.

14 * * *

15 (Laughter)

16 * * *

17 We got our work done we went over on
18 Pergin Farm. Perry Smith said any time come over
19 and swim at the farm. Okay. And my dad gave him
20 the right-of-way through our farm to get; Pergin
21 Farm Road goes through our farm. In fact, we
22 still own the beginning of Pergin Farm Road.

1 Whenever they do a survey, it turns out that we
2 own the beginning of the road. We're not going
3 to charge any -- so this concerns me that in the
4 watershed, there are leases to where water
5 streams can be polluted that goes into our
6 wonderful lake, and I beg to differ with the
7 Chamber of Commerce. Fracking and tourism will
8 not mix.

9 * * *

10 (Applause)

11 * * *

12 Fracking and tourism all over this
13 county, and let me tell you, it will not mix.

14 [Aside to Ms. Kenney] Thank you for e-mailing back and forth. They're
15 trying to decide if they want to buy here.

16 Thank you.

17 * * *

18 (Applause)

19 * * *

20 MS. KENNEY: Next are Bill
21 Beachy and Delegate Wendell Beitzel. So there
22 could be time if someone was unable to sign up to

1 have their three minutes to speak.

2 MR. BEACHY: Thank you for
3 listening. My name is Bill Beachy, B-E-A-C-H-Y.
4 I have eight points, number one, it would be
5 interesting for me to see a list of where
6 drilling has been done with good leases, a list
7 of facts of the benefits that come to the
8 community and also negative things that affect
9 the community, the important things of a good
10 lease and facts.

11 Number two, gas companies are in
12 business to make a profit and to stay in business
13 and they're going to do everything they can to
14 get that accomplished. Number three, one concern
15 I had from observing other studies like you are
16 in, when the environment is involved, to me it
17 looks like you do the study to prove a point and
18 ignore many facts. Number four; remember the gas
19 companies do not have to come to Garrett County.
20 Over-regulation would keep them away. Number
21 five, I am a grandfather, and many times our
22 income is more, or nearly more -- our expenses

1 are more than our income and this helps the gas
2 leases look very popular. The one thing that
3 seems very ironic to me is the state of Maryland
4 wants to tell us not to drill our gas, but please
5 speed it up. Number seven, where do you want
6 your energy to come from? Number eight, if you
7 would do the same depth of study as what you are
8 doing on the safety of gas drilling on alcohol
9 consumption and DUIs, what would happen.

10 Thank you.

11 * * *

12 (Applause)

13 * * *

14 DELEGATE BEITZEL: Thank you,
15 Brigid. Thank you to the Commission for being
16 here tonight.

17 Obviously, I'm the Delegate from
18 District 1-A. You can see I have a tough job
19 keeping everybody -- there's quite a diversity of
20 opinions here and I thank everybody for coming
21 out and voicing their opinions and expressing
22 their views and obviously this is a tough subject

1 that touches all of us.

2 You know, Western Maryland is
3 Maryland's energy powerhouse. We have many forms
4 of energy out here. We have wind, hydro,
5 electric -- hydroelectric, coal and natural gas.
6 So we need energy, and we need something to put
7 the lights on.

8 You know, I grew up right down the
9 road here, about a mile and a half from here.
10 They were drilling gas when I grew up, and I've
11 seen the flare off at night, and there at my
12 father's farm was a lease. We have springs; all
13 of the neighbors and all the farmers down in the
14 valley there had springs. None of our water was
15 messed up by the drilling and there weren't any
16 regulators out there watching to make sure they
17 did it right.

18 You can go right down there now and
19 right at the airport, there's a gas well up there
20 that's been there pumping gas out of the ground
21 under extremely high pressure every day, and just
22 think about it, think about it. You know, it's

1 been said that the gas has been there for 350
2 million years, so what's a little more time?

3 Well, you know anyone with any common
4 sense would know if that gas has been down there
5 for 350 million years and it don't escape, how in
6 the world is any water going to get up out of
7 there through that same formation, unless it
8 comes up a hole different than what was drilled
9 down?

10 When I was growing up here, this
11 college, this platform was sitting right
12 underneath this building here, and this college
13 was built and people objected to this college
14 being built, and they protested this college
15 being built. You know, today this -- to this
16 very day, we know and appreciate how much Deep
17 Creek Lake means to this county. If we had to
18 build Deep Creek Lake today, it would never
19 happen.

20 Look at Canaan Valley; they wanted to
21 do the same thing that's here. Senator Byrd and
22 Congressman Jennings Randolph wanted to put a

1 lake up there. They couldn't get it done. You
2 know, this county is hurting economically. We
3 need jobs. We need to improve our economy. If
4 you look -- we've heard about the Wisp. The Wisp
5 is bankrupt. The Adventure Sports facility,
6 which is up there is a tremendous sports facility
7 has opportunities for this county. You know, the
8 county commissioners had to step in and do
9 something about that and look how they were
10 criticized. You know, we have to move toward and
11 we need to do it safely. And I can tell you I've
12 worked all my life to try to keep this -- to
13 improve the conditions in this county.

14 I worked for 10 years in
15 environmental health. I went to the first
16 principles and practices of school for air
17 pollution and research at Triangle Park and I
18 started the first air quality control program in
19 this county. I worked for 10 years in
20 environmental health regulating the wells. I
21 worked for 18 years, putting a new water and
22 sewer system in this county. When we put the

1 sewer system around Deep Creek Lake, guess what?
2 The property owners association sued to stop us.

3 So, you know, we have to move forward
4 and we have progress. We need the economic
5 opportunity. We closed down three schools in
6 this county; three very good schools. Why?
7 Because our young people have nothing to do here,
8 they have no place to go and we have no young
9 people -- no opportunity here to send their kids
10 to school. You know, Maryland has the best
11 schools in the country. We have had for four
12 years running the best schools in the country.
13 We closed down three schools. That means we
14 closed down three of the best schools in the
15 country, and so, you know, let's all work
16 together on this. You know, I have two farms.
17 I'm probably the biggest landowner in the
18 Maryland House of Delegates, and, sure, you know,
19 one of my farms, I could lease it. It's not
20 leased. I could lease one of my farms to Texas
21 Eastern. They already own the gas ~~company~~ and
22 they're storing the gas under it. I put both of

1 my farms ~~on that~~ in Ag preservation to save it future
2 generations for my kids. So, you know, I've been
3 working to improve the quality of life, preserve
4 the water quality, and I've worked with Bob
5 Summers for many, many years.

6 I've worked with DNR and I can tell
7 you, those agencies in this state have a very
8 good regulatory environment, and I trust what
9 they will do and what they've been doing. And I
10 think we can continue to work with them to make
11 sure that things are done right here. You've got
12 a tough job and I urge you to move forward just
13 as soon as you can so that we can have some
14 economic opportunities out here in Western
15 Maryland.

16 * * *

17 (Applause)

18 * * *

19 MS. KENNEY: Okay, next is
20 Karen Krough and if anyone else wants to speak,
21 just come forward.

22 MS. KROUGH: Thank you.

1 My name is Karen Krough, that's
 2 K-R-O-U-G-H. I'm a resident of Frostburg,
 3 Maryland and I have no personal interest in this.
 4 I don't stand to gain from it, except the fact
 5 that it could potentially affect the quality of
 6 my environment.

7 I guess I take issue with the
 8 pressure to get going with this. I think that
 9 prudence is called for. I'm not sure I trust the
 10 companies. The gas has been there for a long
 11 time. It's going to be there. I don't
 12 understand the hurry. I know we have difficult
 13 economic times, but this is just not -- it seems
 14 like a very shortsighted gain compared to the
 15 long-term environmental hazards that are
 16 involved, and so my interest -- my position would
 17 be to take as long as it takes. It's only going
 18 to become more valuable as we've found over the
 19 years that drilling wells, it's going to be
 20 there. The window is not closing. There's no
 21 need to rush into it because the gas is going to
 22 be there.

1 It occurs to me that we might need
 2 this gas in the future. I'm a conservationist.
 3 I walk as much as I can. I try to -- I shouldn't
 4 even tell you, but I save my water to flush the
 5 toilet. I am very conscientious about trying to
 6 conserve energy, walk instead of drive, and I'm
 7 looking at the future. I think we really need to
 8 be careful here. The gas isn't going anywhere,
 9 so please take as long as it takes to make sure
 10 that it's done safely.

11 Thank you.

12 * * *

13 (Applause)

14 * * *

15 MR. DAVIS: My name is
 16 Jeffrey Davis, D-A-V-I-S. One of the main things
 17 I'm taking from this meeting tonight is this
 18 handout. One of the other people mentioned the
 19 fact that recommendations have been made in the
 20 past, and everybody wants safe practices and best
 21 practices, you know, for everybody's health and
 22 water, but the bottom line is you've all made

1 recommendations before. I can't see why there's
 2 a problem in posing the field of gas leases to
 3 fund studies, and you all can talk until the cows
 4 come and you can make all of the recommendations
 5 you want, but the bottom line is the state
 6 legislature is going to control it and I think
 7 maybe the citizens need to look at the voting
 8 records of our Delegates and Senators and how
 9 they stand on the issue and how they're going to
 10 vote and are they going to allow these safe
 11 practices that are recommended to be enacted.

12 And if not, then maybe we need new
 13 Delegates and Senators.

14 * * *

15 (Applause)

16 * * *

17 MS. KENNEY: Is there anyone
 18 else who wishes to speak tonight?

19 MS. WARD: I really thought I
 20 could keep my mouth shut, but I can't. My name is
 21 Debby, D-E-B-B-Y, Ward, W-A-R-D. I live in
 22 Mountain Lake Park. Thank you, Leo. I hope he's

1 still here. Your job is to protect us and I
 2 appreciate that and thank you for coming to
 3 Garrett County. One of the things I know about
 4 different groups is they love to come to Garrett
 5 County. Why? We already know. We have clean
 6 air. We have clean water and we want to keep it.
 7 What bothers me is that we have to prove that we
 8 have clean water and clean air. So, and we not
 9 only have to prove it, like someone said, spend
 10 over \$2000 to do it.

11 The other thing, and honestly, this
 12 infuriates me, so my knees are shaking, not
 13 because I'm nervous, but the passion from this is
 14 that we have to defend ourselves.

15 The person who spoke about gas wells
 16 for 12 and a half cents an acre, now, come on.
 17 12 and a half cents an acre? There are people --
 18 I believe it, but what I'm saying is we have been
 19 fleeced by the oil companies. The people that
 20 are in West Virginia who were paid almost
 21 nothing, were paid nothing, then their leases
 22 were sold to brokers who made big money for that.

1 The gas companies don't care about us. They don't
2 live here. They don't plan to raise their
3 children here. They could care less.

4 They're going to move on to someone
5 else at our expense and we talked about HAZMAT
6 and we talked about emissions, I don't want to be
7 able to light my water. It's not pretty. I want
8 to drink it. I'd like to wash my clothes without
9 them coming apart.

10 Again, we talked about the waste.
11 Where does the waste go? You know, where does
12 the waste go? They talk about trucking it away,
13 okay; we have roads that people have built. My
14 son lives in Terra Alta. Let me tell you, when
15 he rides on Snowy Creek Road, he goes on Freeport
16 Road to Snowy Creek Road to Grimm, those trucks
17 run him off the road. They don't care about the
18 people that live there. They're not going to
19 care about us.

20 The emissions, we already have a high
21 area -- I'm sorry, a high population of people
22 with asthma. The gentleman on the other side

1 here talked about emissions affecting elderly.
2 Look around at us, okay. There's a lot of us
3 with gray hair here, you know. We moved to
4 Garrett County because we love our county. My
5 mother moved up here six years ago. I said,
6 yeah, Mom, you moved up from southern West
7 Virginia. You just added 10 years to your life.
8 We're proud that our people live to be 90 and
9 100, but, you know, they're going to drive the
10 trucks -- yeah, I know, 30 seconds.

11 The other thing is the best
12 practices. Do you want to go with best
13 practices? I love that someone said that best is
14 not good enough. It's not good enough yet. And
15 that the people talked about the wells that
16 existed before, they aren't using the same
17 things, and I'm sorry, Brigid, I listened to your
18 presentation last Saturday, which was wonderful.
19 The things that are different, they're saying
20 it's household chemicals. I'm not stopping.

21 * * *

22 (Laughter)

1 * * *

2 Household chemicals? They're under
3 my counter, but I'm not going to drink those.
4 Okay. So, again, so anyway, we are not accepting
5 a loss. Our county is not accepting a loss and
6 our state isn't, and we don't want to be part of
7 one of those examples. If we mess up, it's our
8 community that's going to be used as that example
9 and that's not what we want.

10 Thank you.

11 * * *

12 (Applause)

13 * * *

14 MR. VANSICKLE: Thank you
15 very much. My name is Bill Vansickle,
16 V-A-N-S-I-C-K-L-E. I'm a native of the county;
17 although we're relatively new residents here and
18 we love it very, very, much. I'm making some
19 comments that will be a little bit repetitive. I
20 support all of the concerns that have come out
21 and I speak about them for myself as well as
22 based on reading that I've done about examples in

1 other parts of the country, dealing with
2 Marcellus shale and the fracturing process of
3 which leave concerns in my mind for the safety
4 issues, if not the economic issues.

5 My encouragement to the Commission
6 and, of course, beyond that to our legislature
7 and the state is to take the simple example of
8 risk and reward, and make sure that we do a
9 terrific job. You've been doing a terrific job
10 and we support you in getting all the valid
11 information that's possible to qualify or
12 quantify the risks and the rewards involved.

13 On the reward side, we look at the
14 potential for employment, jobs, maybe a little
15 more -- on the risk side, we've heard again and
16 again tonight about the concerns over water
17 quality, air quality, the damage to the
18 infrastructure and to say nothing of the impact
19 on tourism, and what those guys mean to the
20 county.

21 So I encourage, again, that the
22 Commission will take the time, and, you know,

1 come to us in the county and get some more
2 information. I'm sure there are a lot of people
3 who couldn't be here tonight that probably have
4 some very good information for you.

5 Thank you.

6 * * *

7 (Applause)

8 * * *

9 MS. KENNEY: And this will be
10 the end of the public comments. No, I'm sorry.

11 MR. ECKLEY: My name is Quinn-Cliff
12 Eckley, and I'm from Eastern Pennsylvania.

13 MR. VANKO: And how do you
14 spell your last name?

15 MR. ECKLEY: E-C-K-L-E-Y.

16 MR. VANKO: Thank you.

17 MR. ECKLEY: We've been
18 traveling out this way, myself, for over 40 years
19 and I met my wife, and we've been coming out here
20 for 35 years. Once again, as I say, we are from
21 Eastern Pennsylvania, and just recently we were
22 vacationing in northern, central Pennsylvania and

1 we saw fracking operations. Now the people here,
2 I know a lot of them have seen the growth and
3 development of this county with schools and
4 traffic. If you think you have traffic now, when
5 fracking starts, you're going to have more than
6 just traffic. You've developed central sewage,
7 central water, well, I believe you'll be
8 developing more central water because from my
9 understanding there is a possibility of leachates
10 and such into the water system. I, myself, would
11 think that people in this county are probably not
12 as informed of wells as they should have been,
13 because living in Pennsylvania, we have fracking
14 going on that I didn't know was going on in
15 certain areas.

16 So the way they have publicized it
17 has not been as effective as it should have been,
18 and I don't believe the people were informed as
19 well as they could have been.

20 Also, some of the things that I think
21 may be detrimental to -- you'll have to excuse
22 me. We were just traveling through tonight and

1 found out about this and said let's go to it,
2 although my sister-in-law is here and has
3 something to say about this. I really think you
4 need to wait a little bit. I mean fracking is
5 new. If a new car comes on the market, you just
6 wouldn't go out and buy it. You would do some
7 research, and I think the people of Garrett
8 County deserve the right to have some research
9 and shoot for this moratorium they're looking
10 for.

11 Thank you.

12 * * *

13 (Applause)

14 * * *

15 MR. DODGE: My name is Kevin
16 Dodge, D-O-D-G-E. So I was trained to be a
17 scientist. I went to college for nine long
18 years, and I've taught at Garrett College here
19 for 25 years. So I believe in the value of
20 science, which requires objectivity, not citing
21 only the facts that support your point of view.
22 It requires time and it requires resources to

1 provide the answers to the questions that we
2 have, and science provides us with data and
3 facts.

4 What we choose to do with that
5 information depends on our values and we each
6 have our own set of values and we each see things
7 differently. So we are bound to disagree. So
8 I'm one of those 90 fools who wants to see people
9 be reasonable and respectful when they disagree
10 about an issue, to be willing to try to
11 understand each other's concerns, to be open to
12 getting as much credible information as possible
13 before coming to a conclusion, to play fair and
14 if the data points towards a particular
15 conclusion, to be willing to admit it even if
16 it's not what they wanted to see. So I think
17 it's unfair to characterize those who are
18 concerned about gas development as caring only
19 about themselves and their benefit and not caring
20 about their neighbors and their economic
21 well-being.

22 There may be some want to stop gas

1 development at any cost, and they will use any
2 evidence they can find to do so, but many who are
3 genuinely concerned, I mean scared, and they want
4 assurance that their health and their property
5 values and the natural heritage of our region
6 will be protected, and that's reasonable.

7 But it's also unfair to characterize
8 landowners who want to see gas development move
9 forward as caring only about themselves and their
10 benefits and not caring about their neighbors and
11 about the environment. Perhaps there are some
12 people that feel that way, but the ones I know,
13 the landowners I know, don't impress me that way.
14 They want to safely make a living off their land
15 that they own safely, and that's reasonable.

16 So my concern as we move forward, we
17 must strive to do so with respect for one
18 another, whether you're truly open to exploiting
19 the shale gas if it's done safely as possible, or
20 you just don't want it, no matter what.
21 Demonizing those with whom you disagree is to me
22 no way to go. One way or the other, we have to

1 continue to live here together. We shop in the
2 same stores. We watch our kids play basketball
3 together in the same gyms. We go to the same
4 churches. Jesus said that one of the two
5 greatest commandments is to do unto others as you
6 would have them do to you, and this rule is
7 pretty hard to beat.

8 So let's take the time to get the
9 facts the best way we can and let's agree to work
10 together as reasonably and as respectfully as
11 possible to determine our way forward.

12 Thank you.

13 * * *

14 (Applause)

15 * * *

16 MR. VANKO: Wow, I had no
17 idea that we could actually get through all of
18 that before 9:00. We still actually have a few
19 minutes. I hope you all noticed everyone up here
20 was writing. Many of us took notes, as you saw,
21 we all listened. Some people were typing into
22 their laptops and I assume they were taking notes

1 and not playing games. So we have a few minutes.
2 Paul asked earlier were we going to have an
3 opportunity for the Commissioners to say anything
4 and with a little bit of trepidation here, I'm
5 going to ask any of the commissioners if they
6 would like to just -- really need to say
7 something in three minutes or less.

8 ~~DELEGATE GILL~~ Commissioner Raley: Since we are
9 in Garrett County, I do want to thank you for
10 being here. I do want to acknowledge
11 Commissioner Gatto and Commissioner Crawford from
12 Garrett County are both here with us this evening
13 as well.

14 Also, we had representatives from the
15 Governor's office. Chris Uhl was here and Robin
16 Summerfield was here with Senator ~~Easter's~~ Cardin's
17 office.

18 So you did have quite a round of
19 political folks listening to the debate and
20 discussions tonight, and also Delegate Shane
21 Robinson, I know was in the audience from
22 Montgomery County as well.

1 So I just want to thank you for the
2 civil nature of this evening and I want to note
3 -- I want you to know that we're going to
4 continue the debate, and we're going to continue
5 the discussion and it is a privilege to serve
6 you.

7 So thank you very much.

8 * * *

9 (Applause)

10 * * *

11 MR. VANKO: Well said, and
12 now we're going to adjourn the meeting.

13 Thank you.

14 * * *

15 (Applause)

16 * * *

17 (Whereupon, the hearing

18 concluded at 8:55 p.m.)

1 THE STATE OF :
MARYLAND :
2 : SS: C E R T I F I C A T E
COUNTY OF GARRETT :

3
4 I, DEBRA A. VOLK, Professional Court
Reporter, do hereby certify that the testimony
5 given within was by me reduced to stenotype;
afterwards reduced to Computer Aided
6 Transcription under my direction and control;
that the foregoing is a true and correct
7 transcription of the testimony given.
8

9 I do further certify that this
testimony was taken at the time and place in the
foregoing caption specified, and was completed
10 without adjournment.
11

12 I do further certify that I am not a
relative, counsel or attorney of either party, or
otherwise interested in the event of this action.
13
14

15 IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set
my hand in Garrett County, Maryland, on the ____
day of _____, 2012.

16
17
18 _____
19 DEBRA A. VOLK, Professional
Court Reporter
20
21
22