

Statement of Walter L. T. Hang

8/22/13

I decry New York State GOP Party Boss Edward Cox's profoundly disrespectful remark that Governor Cuomo "is displaying 'political cowardice' by not allowing hydro fracking in the economically depressed Southern Tier."

Mr. Cox should apologize to the Governor for his intemperate remark.

Governor Cuomo has wisely supported the policy adopted by New York State in 2008 that shale fracking will not be permitted until comprehensive public health and environmental safeguards are adopted pursuant to a Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement (SGEIS) proceeding.

Since no Final SGEIS has yet been adopted, shale gas fracking is not permitted in New York.

The Cuomo administration also has stated that no Final SGEIS will be adopted until after a Department of Health Review is completed of the "health impact analysis" conducted by New York's Department of Environmental Conservation.

Unfortunately, the DOH lacks any credibility because its Review is being conducted totally in secret without any public participation whatsoever. Moreover, the DOH Review was intended to be informed by three outside studies that either have not yet been undertaken due to a lack of funding or will not be completed for at least another three years.

Thousands of elected officials, physicians, scientists, civic, environmental and cultural groups as well as farmers, business leaders, educators and concerned citizens have written Governor Cuomo to request that he halt the inadequate and incomplete DOH Review and instead undertake a comprehensive Public Health Impact Study to resolve all shale gas fracking health questions once and for all.

If Mr. Cox is so eager to see shale fracking begin in New York State, he should echo widespread public support for conducting a shale fracking Public Health Impact Study in order to make sure that New Yorkers do not suffer the irreparable gas fracking hazards documented in other states, notably Pennsylvania where more than 850,000 local residents could not drink public water drawn from the Monongahela River in 2008 due to massive improper gas fracking wastewater dumping.

Finally, hundreds of citizens look forward to welcoming President Obama to Binghamton. We will send a clear message that he should adopt on a national basis Governor Cuomo's wise policy of not permitting shale gas fracking until comprehensive public health impact studies are conducted and rigorous pollution liability safeguards have been adopted.