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## NEW YORK STATE SENATE DEMOCRATIC MAJORITY

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For Immediate Release: March 20, 2024

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# The Senate Majority to Advance Legislation Banning CO2 Fracking

*Prohibits Use of Carbon Dioxide to Drill and Extract Natural Gas and Oil*

(Albany, N.Y.) Today, the Senate Democratic Majority is advancing legislation, [S.8357/A8866](#), that would prohibit “fracking” with carbon dioxide. Traditional hydrofracking is the use of high-pressure water and chemicals to fracture geologic formations to extract natural gas and oil resources. The process is widely known to cause a variety of adverse environmental and health consequences. With the oil and gas industry now proposing to circumvent the state’s existing fracking ban, it is imperative that we act now to close the carbon dioxide loophole and reaffirm the importance of our environmental protection laws.

Currently, our State’s fracking ban only prevents hydraulic fracturing (hydrofracking), which uses a mixture of water and harmful chemicals to extract gas and oil. We need to expand and strengthen our fracking ban to now include the use of carbon dioxide (CO2) for fracking. All forms of fracking, regardless of the type of high-pressure fluid used, pose many of the same threats and risks to our water, health and climate, and the failure to close this loophole would create new environmental and health risks from the dangerously large amounts of high-pressure CO2 that would be necessary for this experimental form of fracking.

**Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins** said, “The Senate Majority has long been a leader of environmental stewardship and public health protection. As a state, we began combatting hydrofracking over a decade ago, but the widespread development of a new form of fracking using carbon dioxide has the imminent potential to cause new health and safety risks to our constituents and their communities today. I am proud of Senator Webb and other members of my conference for sponsoring this vital piece of legislation that will prevent the oil and gas industry from circumventing our State environmental laws.”

**Bill Sponsor, Senator Lea Webb** said, “We know that fracking proposes significant health and environmental problems that threaten our communities. Over a decade ago, our State historically led the nation and protected public health and the environment by banning high volume hydraulic fracking. And now, an out-of-state company wants to lease land from my constituents in Broome County to inject carbon dioxide into the shale. We must take action to combat the use of CO2 to prevent any erosion of the progress our state has made in preventing fracking. That is why I have introduced this piece of legislation with my colleagues Assemblymember Kelles, Assemblywoman Lupardo and Senator Krueger to strengthen our fracking laws by banning the use of CO2 before it causes damage to our health and environment.”

**Prime Co-Sponsor, Senator Liz Krueger** said, “I am very proud of both houses of the Legislature for moving so quickly to make sure this insane idea of CO2 fracking never sees the light of day in New York. Fracking is a bad idea, full stop. Injecting incredibly dangerous concentrated CO2 into the ground and hoping to never have to think about it again is like a kid saying they've cleaned their room by shoving it all under the bed. Except what they're shoving under the bed is a toxic gas that can cause mass asphyxiation and literally melt your internal organs. We don't need this ridiculous concept damaging our land, our water, and our people's health and offering more false solutions to the greatest challenge of our time.”

**Chair of the Environmental Conservation Committee Senator Pete Harckham** said, “New York’s distinction in recent years as a national climate protection leader is partly due to its ban on hydrofracking and a growing reliance on clean energy sources. Senator Webb’s common-sense legislation to ban carbon dioxide fracking as well — [which is] just as reckless and injurious as its water-based precursor—affirms our commitment to safeguarding our environment and protecting our fragile drinking water supplies while transitioning away from fossil fuel consumption to fight climate change.”

The bill was passed last week by the New York State Assembly prior to being advanced by the Senate and will now head to the Governor’s desk.

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