



Senate Environment and Public Works

Blythe Bahramipour, Kimoni DePass,

Annick Kruse

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Regulating Fracking to Ensure Safety

Summary: Hydraulic Fracking, otherwise known as Fracking, is a drilling technique that pumps water, sand, and other chemicals underground to obtain deposits of methane gas or oil located in rocks. Being the most popular form of accessing natural gases, Fracking has raised lots of controversy over the years. Fracking is under-regulated and is very hazardous. Over 20,000 people have lost their lives to Fracking and the wildlife around Fracking sites have greatly suffered. This bill prohibits fracking within a 50 miles radius of wildlife reserves, residences, and endangered wildlife populations. If the bill is passed, the Environmental Protection Agency will be in charge of enforcing these regulations. All expenses will be paid for by The Department of Energy.

Pros (in favor of fracking):

- Fracking may not be perfect, however, it is significantly better for the environment than coal, oil, and nuclear energy
- Fracking is a low cost way to obtain energy
- Fracking requires more work, therefore providing more jobs

Cons (NOT in favor of fracking):

- Fracking requires huge amounts of water
- Fracking can possibly trigger earthquakes
- Fracking negatively impacts wildlife in surrounding areas

Some helpful sources for your research:

<http://greengarageblog.org/list-of-top-9-pros-and-cons-of-fracking>

<http://www.yaleclimateconnections.org/2015/05/pros-and-cons-of-fracking-5-key-issues/>

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-14432401>

Please feel free to email us with any questions :)

-Blythe Bahramipour (bbraine18@gmail.com) *Author of Summary*

-Annick Kruse (annickhk@icloud.com) *Author of Bill*

Middle School Model Congress

Principal Author: Annick Kruse

Department: Environment and
Public Works

Co-Authors: Blythe Bahramipour
Kimoni DePass

Title of Bill: Regulating Fracking to Ensure Safety

Preamble: Whereas fracking otherwise known as hydraulic fracturing is an advanced drilling technique that pumps water, sand, and chemicals underground at a high pressure in order to access deposits of natural/methane gas or oil located in rock formations; Whereas fracking discharges pollutants into the air and water that are harmful to animals and humans; Whereas animals exposed to the pollutants from fracking are unable to reproduce; Whereas more than 20,000 people have died due to fracking; Whereas thousands of animals have suffered due to fracking; Whereas it is our duty as the Senate to work together and solve this ever growing issue.

Section 1: Fracking will be prohibited within a 50 mile radius of wildlife reserves, residences, and endangered wildlife populations.

Subsection A: Residences can be defined as the place where someone lives. This includes villages, townships, apartment complexes, cities, etc.

Subsection B: In previous studies it was shown that humans and animals were safe from pollutants when 45 or more miles away from the fracking site.

Section 2: This bill will be screened by the Environmental Protection Agency upon passing in order to insure companies follow the guidelines.

Section 3: Funding will come from the Department of Energy.

Subsection A: Money will go towards maintaining safe chemical levels (in the water and atmosphere)

Subsection B: Money will also go towards monitoring the animal populations.

Section 4: Companies who violate the sections above will pay a fine of \$500,000.

Section 5: This bill will take effect 730 days after its passage in order to give fracking companies time to adjust.

Banning Microplastics in Personal Care Products

Summary: Micro Plastics, otherwise known as “Microbeads” are very common in personal care products in America due to their health benefits and visual appeal. They can be commonly found in facial scrubs, toothpastes, and many other cosmetics. These “beads” have had a major impact on our environment. The materials they are made out of do not decompose and beads are too small to be filtered in most water plants. Microbeads absorb toxins, making them nearly 10 times more toxic than the toxins absorbed. Microbeads have also negatively impacted our marine life, polluting the water and the sea life with these toxins. This bill bans the use of Micro Plastics in all personal care products and requires that any company using Microbeads MUST use beads made out of decomposable material that measure over 5 millimeters in diameter. This bill also mandates that 10% of all US water treatment facilities near major cities will be reconstructed to process water with a drainage of 3 millimeters in diameter. Funding for this project will come from the committee of Ways and Means.

Pros (in favor of Microbeads):

- Microbeads have many health benefits, as they commonly used in over-the-counter medicine
- The smoothness and roundness of the beads can provide lubrication and efficient skin exfoliation
- Attempting to ban microbeads would be extremely costly and difficult

Cons (NOT favor of Microbeads):

- Microbeads pollute marine life
- Microbeads absorb toxins that pollute our environment and ourselves

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-Blythe Bahramipour (bbraine18@gmail.com) *Author of Summary*

-Kimoni DePass (kdepass19@mpsdnj.us) *Author of Bill*

Middle School Model Congress

Department: Senate of Environment & Public Works

Principal Authors: Kimoni DePass

Bill No: 1

**Co-Authors: Blythe Bahramipour
Annick Kruse**

Title of Bill: An Act to Ban Micro Plastics in Personal Care Products

Be It Enacted By Middle School Congress Assembled

Preamble: Whereas Personal Care and Hygiene is a staple to American Society, people are always looking to reinvent the basic care routine. One way companies are changing the way we care for ourselves is by adding Micro Plastics to our products. These microscopic plastics can be found in soaps, facial scrubs, and toothpastes usually as exfoliates and to add visual appeal to cosmetics. Micro Plastics other whys known as “Micro Beads “are plastics usually made out of either Polyethylene (PE), Polypropylene (PP), Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET), Polymethyl Methacrylate (PMMA) or Nylon, all materials that do not decompose. These plastics measure about less than 5 millimeters in diameter, which is too small to be processed in most water treatment plants. This has a major impact on our environment. These plastics are meant to absorb and when they absorb the toxics are around them they can become 10xs as toxic as the once were. A study from State University of New York found up to 1.1 million Micro beads on the Great Lakes. Another Study found that Micro beads are effecting our wild life. Perch, a species of fresh water fish are eating the beads instead of their common food such as zooplankton, this leaves them unable to smell their predators and more vulnerable. After being eaten by wildlife such as fish and others Micro Beads make their way back into our bodies through the food cycle and this can be very harmful to humans and other animals that consume them. These tiny plastics are having a big negative effect on our country.

1 Section 1: All personal care products containing Micro Plastics made out of PP,
2 PE, PET, PMMA, and/or Nylon will face an immediate recall and will no longer be
3 available to the public.

4 Subsection A: Any Manufacture found to still be using any of the
5 previously listed or any other non-biodegradable substance in their personal care
6 products will face an up to \$20,000 fine and 3-year business license suspension.

7 Subsection B: Companies in the past that have had reported use of Micro
8 Plastics in their care products must now have to submit all process and ingredients
9 to the FDA of said products for regulation.

10 Section 2: Manufactures that still choose to add Micro Plastics to their products

11 must have plastics that are made out of a biodegradable substance and must
12 measure over 5 millimeters in diameter.

13 **Subsection A:** Any companies currently using biodegradable substance
14 as natural exfoliates or plan to do so within the next 5 years may be eligible for a
15 federal tax deduction of 3% of their yearly total profit for a period of 10 years.

16 **Section 3:** 10% of all US water treatment facilities near major cities will be
17 reconstructed to process water with a drainage of 3 millimeters in diameter.

18 **Subsection A:** All other water treatment plants will be allowed a 5%
19 budget increase to find other methods of combating Micro Plastic pollution.

20 **Section 4:** A Subcommittee will be assembled out of Personal care product
21 manufactures, scientist, and water treatment specialist to find ways to
22 appropriately combat water pollution caused by these plastics and other substance
23 around the nation.

24 **Section 5:** Adequate funding for this bill will come from the committee of Ways
25 and Means

26 **Section 6:** This bill will go into effect 90 days after passage.

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