

Dear Neighbor,

*Entitled: the word evokes many responses and has become a very charged word with both positive and pejorative connotations. By virtue of our Constitution, and the Bill of Rights, we are entitled to basic civil liberties and civil rights. But in actual practice this can be more of a challenge.*

*For lesbian and gay New Yorkers, the fight for Marriage Equality is about being entitled to choose the person you want to marry, without the current restriction on same sex marriages. We are entitled to clean air and water. While indoor air quality has improved with restrictions on smoking; we are finding it might be possible that the clean water we thought we were entitled to might be despoiled for short-term gain.*

*It is axiomatic that we are entitled to a public education, but with dreadful overcrowding and a lack of art and music and access to consistent physical education it is an entitlement under attack. Women have fought long and hard to make personal reproductive choices and younger generations of women have assumed that they too will be entitled to those choices. This, too, is an assumption under serious threat.*

*As a people, we have always believed that we are entitled to have our votes counted. But too many instances have called into question whether our votes get counted, or if they are counted, that the result of that vote will stand in the face of someone else's sense of entitlement.*

*We need to return to a notion of community and shared responsibility for the public good. Our collective actions should support individual sense of right and responsibility but not provide support for individual entitlement that is purely selfish in nature.*



Assemblymember Glick, new SUNY Chancellor Nancy Zimpher, and New York State Deputy Commissioner Johanna Duncan-Poitier at the State University of New York's (SUNY) Office of Diversity and Educational Equity's conference on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics careers for minority students.

Best Wishes,

Deborah J. Glick  
Assemblymember

## PROTECTING OUR WATERSHED

### KEEPING OUR DRINKING WATER CLEAN

My office has been involved in urging New York State's Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to ban gas drilling in the Catskills/Delaware Watershed Area, particularly as ninety percent of New York City's drinking water comes from this area. Although gas drilling has occurred for many decades in various locations in New York State, this new method of horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing (called "fracking") in the Marcellus Shale poses serious environmental concerns.

Fracking involves drilling horizontally through the bedrock for up to a mile and cracking it open with high-pressure blasts of water, sand and chemicals in order to release the gas. This process consumes an enormous amount of water. A traditional vertical well uses an average of 80,000 gallons during its operating life, while a horizontal well, the type to be used throughout the Marcellus Shale, will require from 1,500,000 gallons to 9,000,000 gallons of water during its 4 to 6 weeks of fracking operation. This amount of water exceeds the volume needed for vertical wells by more than 62.5 to 112.5 times. The millions of gallons of water needed for fracking will be diverted from area lakes and rivers, reducing the supply of fresh water for drinking or for environmental activities.

Hydraulic fracturing uses a dizzying array of chemicals that have the potential to pollute the air and water and compromise the health of millions of individuals. Scientists have determined that chemicals used in fracking fluid include carcinogens, reproductive toxicants, and other toxic chemicals like arsenic, hydrogen sulfide, mercury and volatile compounds including benzene and xylene. Of the documented health impacts

associated with exposure to these chemicals, 94% result in eye and/or skin harm, 83% respiratory harm, 87% brain/neurological harm, and 93% gastrointestinal harm.

In this process, significant volumes of wastewater are produced. The disposal of wastewater is one of the major concerns regarding gas drilling. The water that returns to the surfaces after being used for drilling is laced with surfactants/detergents, salt, metals, suspended solids, fracturing chemicals, oil, and grease. The U.S. Department of Energy lists wastewater from gas drilling as among the most toxic of any oil industry byproduct. It states that when water returns to the surface, it must be dealt with as a toxic industrial waste. The DEC has not made clear how this wastewater will be disposed of. It says that wastewater will be treated by facilities in New York and Pennsylvania, but it does not confirm whether those plants have the capacity to receive Marcellus Shale wastewater or the technology to make that water safe.

Not only does hydraulic fracturing require a high quantity of water, it also requires many acres of land for well pads. The land in the watershed is mostly forested. It is estimated that one well pad site averages 5 acres and that this would require the removal of about 3,500 trees, clearing what was previously mature wooded terrain. The tree removal, earth-moving, and road-grading that is required will significantly impact the rural landscape. Wildlife will be in danger of losing their habitats. The deforestation may result in more frequent and severe incidents of erosion. Local traffic will increase on predominantly

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# PROTECTING CHOICE: THE ONLY OPTION

The moment I learned of the Stupak Amendment to the House's health care bill, I wrote a letter to women Senators expressing my deep outrage over the passage of the Amendment, one that would radically change the current law regarding access to abortion for women all over the country, and urging their strong unified effort to prevent this amendment from being included in any final version of the Senate bill, or any final health care reform measure. While I am aware abortion is a controversial issue that conflicts with a segment of our population's moral values, the fact remains that abortion has been a necessity through the ages for women; the only issue that is relevant to a health care bill is whether or not the procedure will be safe and legal.

The Stupak Amendment would specifically prevent low income women who are dependent on a health insurance subsidy to afford coverage from accessing abortion services and having insurance. Analysis of the Amendment has shown that the Amendment would have such wide reaching implications that the net result would be to limit the inclusion of abortion services in most insurance plans, both public and private. It has been reported that proponents of this hideous Amendment suggested that women could simply buy "abortion insurance," as if most women presume this is something they are likely to want or need.

This disgraceful attack on women and their private health care choices reflects a complete lack of understanding that abor-

tion is not a planned event, but rather a reaction to an unplanned circumstance; either an unplanned and unwanted pregnancy, or a pregnancy that has gone horribly wrong. Even more concerning is that many of those involved in promoting the Amendment are well-organized religious fundamentalists who have decided that it is appropriate to use our government to advance their personal religious agendas.

As elected officials, the Constitution is the ruling document of our democracy and we have all taken an oath to uphold it. Those who are committed to the imposition of a particular religious doctrine in the laws of our country are violating that oath as well as the basic precepts of our democracy. It is vital for this Amendment to be stripped from any healthcare reform that is advanced by the Senate, and I asked its members to ensure that it is removed. The women of America cannot have their rights abrogated.

It is heartening that there was some indication from the White House that there can be no retreat from the status quo of the rights given by Roe v. Wade, in which the Supreme Court deemed that abortion was a fundamental right of all American women. I am galled by these anti-choice advocates' utter lack of compunction about attacking women and their right to control and care for their own bodies. It is time for all of us to fight back and clarify the point that private health care decisions are not to be interfered with by legislative action.

## A \$250 MILLION QUESTION

For the last year, I have been involved in a fierce struggle with the New York City Department of Education (DOE) to construct a school at 75 Morton Street. This is a state-owned building located in the heart of Greenwich Village that would make an excellent school and would relieve intense overcrowding in the District. This space has been available for some time for no more than \$78 million. It is an eight story building equipped with a cafeteria, gym and outdoor space to be used for recreation. While there would be renovations required, the structure is large, stable and offers the remarkable advantage of being handicapped accessible.

Parents and other local elected officials agree that this is an



Assemblymember Deborah Glick and New York City Comptroller Bill Thompson, with P.S 41 parent Ann Kjellberg.

extremely rare and unique opportunity. On behalf of 75 Morton Street, I have spoken at multiple rallies, written multiple letters to a variety of officials, and have even voiced my concerns in person to the Chancellor of the DOE, Joel Klein.

Throughout this process the Department of Education has dragged its feet, coming up with one excuse after another about why this deal could not move forward. Therefore it was to my surprise and shock when I learned recently that the City has agreed to spend \$250 million on an educational complex at 26 Broadway. This educational complex is to be the new home of the Greenwich Village Middle School, leaving Greenwich Village without any neighborhood middle school.

The City has purportedly committed \$250 million on a 30-year lease for four floors at 26 Broadway, while plans to utilize 75 Morton Street remain dormant. It is difficult to understand why the City has chosen 26 Broadway, when the option of 75 Morton Street relieves fierce overcrowding across the District, is less expensive, and will result in the City owning the property in perpetuity.

Furthermore, the DOE now contends that it is interested in 75 Morton, but that there is not enough time to have the building ready by next year. This is a typical scenario. Had the DOE acted when we initiated this effort 2 years ago, the timing issue wouldn't exist. I am flabbergasted at this move considering the economic straits of the City and State. With money being cut from valuable social programs I have difficulty understanding this fiduciary decision. I have requested more information from the City and have contacted the Comptroller to alert him to this situation.

### DRINKING WATER - Continued from page 1

rural roads. Heavy vehicles, some weighing as much as 80,000 lbs when loaded with water and 100,000 lbs when loaded with equipment, will have a detrimental impact on the pavement life of these roads. Heavy trucks will impose diesel particle and truck oil on the watershed contaminating soil, surface and ground water.

The clearing of forested land for gas drilling spoils the beauty of upstate New York and reduces its desirability as a travel destination. So, the considerable resources directed towards improving the upstate economy by tourism would be rendered obsolete. In addition, much of this area continues to support agriculture and the danger to the water supply is as important as the danger to our own drinking water. Not only is it important to protect our drinking water from contamination, it

is also important to preserve the splendor of our forests and the diversity of our natural wildlife habitats. If these are destroyed they can never be restored to their original states. This would be a loss to all of New York State.

I will continue to be outspoken about the need to protect the New York City watershed from the potential damage that could result with allowing hydraulic fracturing. Furthermore, I will do what I can to ensure that the \$488 million dollars of taxpayer funds that have been invested in buffer lands are not wasted if drilling is permitted in our watershed. There will be additional costs of filtration or remediation in the event of unanticipated contamination of the City's water supply. Quite simply put, it is a terrible disservice to the residents of New York City and State to put our water supply at risk. Our efforts must be concentrated on truly renewable resources.

## WINNING RESULTS FOR THE COMMUNITY

Over the past few months, I have played a key role in a number of important victories for the community. I am pleased to report on some of this work so that you may get a better feel for the wide range of issues we confront regularly.

- I helped raise the alarm about the overcrowding crisis in our local public schools through a series of letters, rallies, and forums. This year, as a result, 90 pre-Kindergarten classes were preserved in Greenwich Village and 5,000 new seats were added to the Department of Education's capital plan.
- I communicated with State and City officials, organized an interagency meeting, and demanded action be taken against landlords who allow their buildings to be hazardous through neglect. As a result criminal charges are being filed against two landlords in the community because of their negligence.
- I sent letters to the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, was active in rallies, and helped pass legislation in Albany that allowed the preservation of the essential M8 bus.
- After 7 years of efforts, I was able to help convince the Landmarks Preservation Commission to begin hearings on the extension of the Greenwich Village Historic District. I expect that the District will be extended and I will continue to fight to make sure all appropriate areas of Greenwich Village are landmarked.
- I wrote a letter to the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation (LMDC) urging them to consider the recommendations made by Community Board #1 (CB1) to expand the Small Firm Assistance Program which assisted struggling small businesses after 9/11. I am happy to report that after the receipt of my letter the LMDC has indeed extended the program boundaries and increased the compensation amounts significantly. I will continue to work with LMDC to further improve the targeting of these much-needed funds.



Assemblymember Glick speaking on the floor of the New York State Assembly during the debate on gay marriage.

## GOING GREEN

### A WHITE ROOF IS A COOL ROOF

How you can help reduce Global Warming, lower your electric bill and extend the life of your roof!

Saving energy and reducing cooling costs are key components of all plans to combat Global Warming. Dark colored roofs absorb heat and increase cooling costs. In New York there are thousands of flat roofs covered with black materials that are perfectly suited for the "Cool Roof" treatment. An Energy Star rated white roof coating has a high Solar Reflective Index and will increase the efficiency of air conditioning, reduce peak energy use to avoid brownouts and help roofs last longer.



A member of the Sierra Club going green by turning a roof white.

### BENEFITS TO YOUR BUILDING

- White roofs can reduce the temperature of a roof by 30° F.
- Reduced temperatures can save as much as 50% on air conditioning costs in a 1-story building and 10% in a 5-story.
- White roofs last longer due to less heat damage.
- Air conditioning units operate more efficiently and last longer.

### BENEFITS TO THE CITY

- Cool roofs reduce the Urban Heat Island Effect by reflecting away the sun's heat.
- Even a reduction of only 1° F can significantly reduce peak energy demand, thus reducing the risk of summer heat wave brownouts and blackouts.
- Reduce smog by lowering temperatures and energy demand.
- Air conditioning accounts for as much as 40% of daily electricity demand in summer. White roofs reduce these costs 10-30% on average.

### HOW TO DO IT – EASY, QUICK & CHEAP

1. Clean the roof with soap and water to remove surface dirt and grit.
2. When dry apply a solar reflective undercoat with standard rollers.
3. Let dry for a full day.
4. Apply the bright white finish coat.
5. Annual maintenance – "spring cleaning" with soap and water.
6. Re-coat every 3 to 5 years to maintain solar reflective properties.

## HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

As Chair of the Assembly's Higher Education Committee, I have been examining a number of higher education issues. Early this year, I co-hosted a roundtable on Encouraging Diversity in our Public Higher Education Systems with the Chair of the Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic and Asian Legislative Caucus, Assemblymember Darryl Towns. The roundtable brought together representatives from student and faculty diversity programs at the CUNY and SUNY systems to inform committee members about the range of programs offered in the schools and the importance of maintaining these programs during tough economic times.

I also held a Higher Education committee hearing to examine how New York State can ensure access to a quality and affordable education through the state's network of community colleges. Over 20 representatives from community colleges across the state, along with representatives from the State Education Department, provided testimony on the value of local community

colleges, the role they are currently playing in the recession, and the greater role they can play with sufficient resources. Community colleges are seeing a surge in enrollments as unemployed workers return to retrain for jobs, reinforcing their great importance in the spectrum of higher education choices for adults of all ages.

The Higher Education committee's duties also include oversight of the licensed professions and those seeking licensure. Accordingly, this Spring I held a roundtable to consider the merits of licensing naturopathic physicians. The event brought together 40 participants representing naturopathic doctors and other professions whose scope of practice may be impacted by the licensing bill currently before the Committee. The discussion provided additional information to the committee regarding the health, safety, welfare and public demand considerations of licensing naturopathic physicians.

## EDUCATION BENEFITS FOR VETERANS

With Veteran's day having recently passed it's not only important that we remember our veterans but it's also important that we remind them of the opportunities available for public education. Please examine the chart below and share this information with anyone you think might benefit.

Financial Aid for Veterans and Their Families	
<i>New York State Programs</i>	
<b>Veterans Tuition Awards</b>	Provides awards for full-time study and part-time study to eligible veterans matriculated at an undergraduate or graduate degree-granting institution or in an approved vocational training program in New York State.
<b>Military Service Recognition Scholarship</b>	Provides financial aid to children, spouses and financial dependents of those who, while New York State residents in service in the Armed Forces of the United States or state organized militia, at any time on or after August 2, 1990, died, became severely and permanently disabled, or was classified as missing in action in a combat zone while engaged in hostilities or training for hostilities.
<b>NYS Regents Awards for Children of Deceased and Disabled Veterans</b>	Provides \$450 per year to students whose parent(s) served in the U.S. Armed Forces during specified periods of time and died as a result of such service, was discharged under other than dishonorable conditions or suffers a 40% or more disability as a result of such service. The veteran must be a current New York State resident or have been a New York State resident at the time of death or classification as missing in action.
<b>Recruitment Incentive and Retention Program</b>	Provides financial aid to any active member who has successfully completed advanced individual training or commissioning and other requirements of the NYS Division of Military and Naval Affairs for tuition benefit eligibility upon his or her enrollment in a degree-producing curriculum in any institution. Information and applications for this program may be obtained from the NYS Division of Military and Naval Affairs
<b>Post - 9/11 GI Bill</b>	For the eligible veteran, the federal government may provide in-state tuition and fees up to the current rate of a public Institution of Higher Education, plus a monthly housing allowance and an annual books and supplies stipend.

**For more information or to talk with someone about your situation, call 1-888-838-7697.**

*Courtesy of NYS Division of Veterans Affairs*

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*Deborah Glick's*



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