**Cuomo Seeking to Allow Hydraulic Fracturing that may Contaminate Water Supply**

New York – The process of Hydraulic Fracturing or “hydrofracking” as it is commonly known involves extracting natural gas from areas of rock. To do so, water and a chemical mixture is pumped into the rock, breaking it up and releasing the natural gas that can be used as fuel. In New York State, the Marcellus Shale contains enough gas to supply the United States with enough energy for roughly 20 years. New York sees this as an effort toward solving some of the energy problems and a good source of revenue for the state.

Hydrofracking has been under scrutiny for some time now because of the chemicals used. Of the near 250 chemicals, 65 are known to cause tumors, cancer and other illnesses. The Marcellus Shale bedrock is located near one of New York’s main watersheds and the possibility of contamination has several environmental groups as well as Borough President Scott Singer fighting to ban it. Singer, joined by several other Manhattan politicians has been speaking and holding meetings to make the dangers known in an attempt to prohibit fuel companies from going ahead with these plans.

Due to the urging of Congressman Maurice Hinchey (NY-22) the US House of Representatives approved his provision for the US Environmental Protection Agency to further study the dangers of hydraulic fracturing. The Senate is expected to act correspondingly and a final report is expected in August.

Even though the dangers about possible contamination to 90 percent of New York City's drinking water the water exist, Governor Cuomo wants to allow plans to continue and have the current ban on hydrofracking on state lands and near the watershed lifted. In response to the alarm and protests some of big energy companies are going to cease developing their plans for the area.