

## Moore, Katharine

---

**From:** Karen Jacques [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 11, 2015 2:41 PM  
**To:** Moore, Katharine  
**Subject:** Underground Injection Control Program

Dear Ms. Moore

I am writing because I am aware that the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Environmental Quality will be conducting a hearing on this program this coming Tuesday, March 17th.

I am appalled, but not surprised by the results of studies conducted by the Center for Biological Diversity and the Environmental Working Group with regard to toxic and, in many cases, cancer causing chemicals and heavy metals that are being injected into aquifers in Kern County as a result of oil and natural gas drilling using hydraulic fracturing or acidizing to extract these products. It now appears that many of these aquifers have been poisoned and I can only wonder how many people have already been sickened by this and how much wildlife killed. At this point, it is clear that the oil and gas companies involved can't or won't extract oil and natural gas in a manner that is safe and protects our water supply. These companies have shown a wanton disregard for public safety and the environment and there is no reason to expect them to change.

California is in what may be the most severe drought in recorded history. This drought and the rising temperatures accompanying it are, undoubtedly, the result of climate change. Even if it were possible to extract oil and natural gas safely (and I think it has become very clear that it is not), we simply cannot afford to keep extracting the fossil fuels that drive climate change. It is nothing short of crazy that, on one hand, people are being asked to cut back on their water use and are fined when they don't and, on the other hand, oil and gas companies are allowed to drastically deplete our water supply by poisoning our ground water. It is also nothing short of crazy that oil and gas companies are being allowed to destroy human health and poison our environment when more sources of renewable energy are coming on line very day.

New York's Governor Cuomo banned fracking and acidizing in his state because of the deadly chemicals used and their health effects. I believe it must also be banned in California. DOGGR doesn't have the resources (or the will?) to monitor the immense number of fracking and acidizing wells. The oil and gas companies clearly care about nothing except profit and cannot be trusted to take any safety measures whatsoever. Even if they did, there is no safe place to inject the vast quantities of permanently poisoned water. No matter where it is injected, sooner or later it will end up in aquifers. We simply must ban fracking/acidizing in California before it causes still more damage to people's health, the environment and our climate.

I hope to be able to attend Tuesday's hearing, but, whether or not I do, I wanted to make sure that my comments are on record in writing.

Sincerely,

Karen Jacques

[REDACTED]  
Sacramento, CA 95816