

Dear Committee for the Environment,

Please find attached Friends of the Earth's response to your 2013 Planning Bill. I trust you have read through and given very careful thought to their objections to fracking.

I am one of many, *extremely* concerned citizens of Ireland about the possibility that fracking might be allowed to go ahead in Ireland. It is not, and never will be, a positive introduction to this country, whether on economic nor indeed ecological grounds. It might appeal economically on the short term because of the bankers' greed causing economic collapse, but the myopia of such a decision would cost us on the long term a far, *far* greater price than the initial financial gratification. Please look at the *long* term, not short term solutions, do not replace bankers' greed with fracking companies' greed; they will come here, extract the resources out of our ground and take most of the profits away with them. It happens all over the world; they come, they take, they leave a sorry mess behind. And Ireland will be no exception to the rule.

I sincerely hope that you, the Committee for the Environment will be able to make an objective, intelligent, forward-thinking decision on this, and for the sake of our children, make a unambiguous and absolute stand against fracking in Ireland.

Dr Miriam de Búrca