

## Lois Weston

New York's natural beauty is our greatest resource. Because the long term effects of hydrofracking are only beginning to be understood (groundwater contamination, earthquakes, and still unsuspected damage), we CANNOT take a chance on permitting ANY amount of fracking activity in New York State. There is no region in the state that we can afford to SACRIFICE to a technology that has the ability to do such irreparable harm to the environment both above and below the earth's surface. We have heard too many assurances of safety precautions that did not protect (think of the damage in the Gulf of Mexico) to believe that fracking can be made 100% safe for people and the environment. We should not open up the state to fracking. We need to be supporting the development of alternative sources of energy.