# FACT SHEET | Center for Energy & Environment

THE COSTS OF BANNING FRACKING

Oliver McPherson-Smith, Ph.D. | August 21, 2024

## A BAN WOULD HARM AMERICA'S ECONOMY, ENVIRONMENT, AND SECURITY

Proposals to ban hydraulic fracturing within the oil and gas industry (i.e., "fracking") have re-entered the public conversation. Unfortunately, pro-ban advocates either ignore or are ignorant of the economic, environmental, and national security benefits associated with fracking technology.

#### Banning fracking would raise consumer energy prices.

- In recent years, fracking has saved American consumers <u>\$203 billion</u> each year through lower energy prices.
  - This is equivalent to \$2,500 each year for a family of four.
- Fracking provides cheap and abundant energy for household heating that saves <u>11,000 lives</u> each winter.
  - During the winter of 2022, *The Economist* <u>estimates</u> that 68,000 Europeans perished due to high energy costs.

### Banning fracking would kill jobs.

- <u>Hundreds of thousands</u> of jobs have been created where fracking is used to reach oil and natural gas reserves.
  - In 2023, the <u>average annual wage</u> for oil and gas workers ranged from \$52,470 to \$163,170.
- ★ Fracking also provides economic benefits for nearby communities.
  - Each million dollars worth of energy production creates additional wages worth between <u>\$257,000</u> and <u>\$277,420</u> within a 100-mile radius.

### Banning fracking would increase the human impact on the environment.

- Horizontal drilling technology allows for greater oil and gas production with a lower impact on the surface environment.
  - Underground, horizontal wells routinely reach <u>3 miles</u> in length without disrupting the environment above them.
- ★ A shift toward <u>natural gas</u> has been the primary driver of reducing American greenhouse gas emissions within the electricity industry over the past two decades.
  - While America's emissions have fallen, emissions from the People's Republic of China have skyrocketed.

### Banning fracking would hinder American national security.

- Since 2007, American <u>annual natural gas</u> production has increased by 85%, making the Nation less reliant on foreign energy.
  - Since their peak in 2007, <u>American imports</u> of natural gas have fallen 36%.
- ★ America's <u>annual LNG exports</u> have grown 153-fold since 2015.
  - American <u>LNG exports</u> have helped to blunt Russia's weaponization of its natural gas supplies to American allies in Europe.

### BANNING FRACKING WOULD IMPOSE COSTS ON AMERICAN CONSUMERS, WORKERS, THE ENVIRONMENT, AND AMERICA'S NATIONAL SECURITY.