

PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Doug Wood, Grassroots (516) 423-6021

New York Faith Leaders Call on Peers to Speak Out on Fracking

New Film Cites Our Role as Stewards of the Earth; Warns Against Exploitation

(Albany, NY) A new documentary film entitled "*On Faith & Fracking*" is being released today in which seven leaders of various faiths from across New York State call on individuals, congregations and their peers to follow the teachings of their religious traditions and take up the fight against fracking in New York. The film, produced by non-profit Grassroots Environmental Education, is available on the internet at <https://vimeo.com/58828810>.

"Emotions are running high, there's a lot of money at stake, it seems to be all about politics, and quiet voices of spirituality and religious thought are being drowned out," says film producer and Grassroots Associate Director Doug Wood. "We thought it was really important to give our faith leaders an opportunity to be heard on the issue before any final decision is made by the Governor."

Participants in the film include Sister Carol DeAngelo of the Sisters of Charity, Reverend Karen Burger of the United Methodist Church, Reverend Craig Schwalenberg of the Unitarian Universalist Association, Father Kevin Burger of the Church of the Annunciation (R.C.), Rabbi Douglas Krantz of Congregation B'Nai Yisrael, Suzannah Glidden of Hands Across the Border, and Rev. Dr. Robert White, Interim Director of the New York State Council of Churches.

Speaking on behalf of upstate citizens whose lives will be directly affected by the industrialization brought on by fracking, Sister Carol DeAngelo said "If we really want to make choices that are moral and are good, we have to look at how do we stand with people who don't have the voice - who are affected by the decision but aren't being included in the decision?"

Rabbi Douglas Krantz said " Regardless of whether we're rich or we're poor, whatever our race, whatever our religion or non-religion, we're all dependent on the earth, and I think we have to try to make that case, as quietly and effectively as we can."

"We cannot sit on our hands anymore," says Suzannah Glidden. "We need the faith-based leadership to say, 'Alright, I'm not going to leave it up to another organization or think that my government is going to change. I have to do something. I commit myself today, forward, to being an activist in order to save our state, our nation, our world.'"

"I pray that people will, in the midst of all the pressure and economic difficulty, that people will not lose their sense of reverence - their sense that we are accountable to a higher power and force that's working for our good," says Reverend White. "There is a sacredness to reality and to the world, and we cannot just follow everyone who would plunder it for their advantage."

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About Grassroots:

Grassroots Environmental Education, Inc. is a registered 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization with a mission to educate the public about the links between common environmental toxins and human health, and to bridge the gap between scientific research and public policy. The organization has offices in Port Washington and Rye, NY. For more information, please visit www.grassrootsinfo.org.