



To all anti-fracking organizations:

We send you greetings and solidarity from Chihuahua, Mexico's largest state, bordering on New Mexico and Texas, home to a vast array of endemic desert flora and fauna. The Chihuahuan Desert is number three in biodiversity in the world, and is now firmly in the sights of the fracking industry.

The Mexican Constitution was recently "reformed", though many of us would say that it was deformed, to allow foreign oil corporations to "invest" in what has been a national industry until now. One provision allows all types of land to be effectively expropriated in order to encourage the production of hydrocarbons.

Faced with the depletion and contamination of our scarce water resources, the long-term threats to our sources of clean, safe drinking water, the threats to agricultural production and to the water the desert needs to survive ecologically, we became convinced that any possible benefits fracking may offer in the short term, are grossly outweighed by the environmental, social, health and economic costs it implies over time.

As citizens, it is our duty to ensure that we, our children, our children's children, and all future generations will have access to clean water and a healthy environment. For these reasons and others, we came together and formed a citizens collective in order to educate our fellow citizens about what fracking is, why it is being imposed on us and what its implications are for future life along the border region; for example, few studies have addressed how environmental degradation drives emigration.

Our organization, Chihuahua vs. Fracking, is part of the National Mexican Anti-fracking Alliance, and has also entered into contact with organizations in Argentina and other parts of the world. Our collective is made up of several local and national organizations and concerned individuals who are committed to breaking the barrier of media silence by taking the information directly to the people through workshops and other activities. **We wish to be considered as members of your movements and invite you to become part of our struggle, because together will become much stronger.** In this war of public opinion, laws, information and counter-information we all need to be interconnected just like the water that flows through us and into the clouds.

In the near future we hope to organize important events and would like to be able to invite people with direct experience with fracking and its consequences to come and share what they know and understand with the public at large. We also have a constant need for the latest information on the subject so that we can integrate it into our workshops. Our movement is in its early stages and has already created a reaction in the media and in government circles. We need to be efficient, intelligent and relentless if we are to stop this tragedy before it ever gets started.



Our next action will be to make a courteous, public presentation of information regarding fracking to César Duarte, the Governor of the State of Chihuahua, because his press declarations demonstrate that he is blissfully unaware. Other members of the Alliance will repeat our initiative all over the country on the very same day.

If you agree with our request for membership, please send us a copy of your logo, the name of your organization, contact information and anything else you would wish to ask us or share with us, then copy our logo from this letter and we will be bound in solidarity.

I was commissioned by the organization to enter into contact with US groups. I actually grew up along the Susquehanna, and it breaks my heart to see the forests with pipelines and hear of a mighty river going dry. You can write back to me directly and I will relay your messages in Spanish to members of our collective.

We can be found on Facebook here: <https://www.facebook.com/chihuahuaVSfracking> and on Twitter: @Chihvsfrack

We also want you to know that other organizations exist who deeply appreciate the sacrifices you have already made, the information you have gathered and everything you have done to stop fracking. Together we will prevail.

In solidarity

David Lauer

