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I am deeply concerned about the proposed development of the Marcellus Shale. To the best of my knowledge, no comprehensive assessment of the greenhouse gas contributions of shale gas extraction has been made. Shale gas extraction is an extremely energy-intensive operation, requiring fleets of trucks to move vast quantities of water to drilling sites and take vast quantities of wastewater away from drilling sites. Additional energy will be used to construct and operate wastewater treatment plants. Still more energy will be used in the attempt to reclaim forest, farmland, and community areas that are negatively impacted by the drilling. In forested areas, huge numbers of trees will be cut for well pads, pipelines, and! access roads. And unburned methane--a greenhouse gas approximately 20 times more potent than carbon dioxide--will be accidentally and intentionally vented during the extraction and transportation of the gas. In addition to all of the above problems, the shale gas development threatens our other resources, including our air and water. The shale gas rush is likely to undo a lot of the environmental and community progress that has been made in NY state, and we CANNOT afford to waste all of the time, money, energy, and effort that has been invested to produce that progress. It makes no sense to invest huge amounts of money and resources in building an infrastructure to produce and transport yet another greenhouse-gas-producing fossil fuel that, in the end, will be only a temporary source of energy. Rather than using tens of thousands of acres in NY state to produce a temporary "bridge" fuel, I believe that the state should be focusing on developing sustainable energy sources--such as wind and solar--that will serve NY residents for many generations to come. Indeed, the presence of a dense grid of gas wells and pipelines may place limitations on NY's ability to construct and utilize sustainable energy sources in the future. The "bridge" to a sustainable future should not be yet another fossil fuel; rather, the bridge should be a serious program to promote energy conservation and efficiency at the individual, governmental, and corporate levels. Conservation and energy efficiency will be crucial no matter what future energy sources we use. New York needs to concentrate not on the fossil fuel past, but on a sustainable energy future. If we fail to do so, New York's future will be bleak.