Proposition 112 for “Safer Setbacks” would require a 2,500-foot buffer between all new oil and gas drilling operations and occupied buildings, playgrounds and water sources statewide. Many studies nationwide suggest that such a setback is common sense. Massive drilling operations create noise and air pollution that disturbs sleep and threatens health. Under current setback rules, children play on ballfields and playgrounds next to well pads emitting a wide variety of poisons. Noxious odors frequently force people indoors with windows closed. Constant truck traffic destroys nearby roads adding diesel fumes to the mix. Explosions and fires force evacuations and occasionally kill residents.

Why would the oil and gas industry oppose reasonable setbacks when horizontal bores can extend for miles? My theory is oil corporations expect free reign to drill wherever profits are the absolute highest, and are used to getting their way. From the federal government to city and town councils not nearly enough is done to protect citizens. We have seen over the years that protecting our health and safety doesn’t compete well when profits, campaign money and political influence are at stake.

Prop 112 is a citizen-led campaign intended to take concrete action on behalf of people and their communities. The industry tries to scare us with tall tales of outside influence and impending economic doom. Think instead about your own health and safety and that of your kids and neighbors. Vote yes.

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