

Celebrating a ban on fracking

By [Debra Bendis](#)

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Several years ago the *Century* [interviewed Sandra Steingraber](#) and reviewed her most recent book, *Raising Elijah*. Now, after six years of scientifically informed activism, Steingraber and others are celebrating in New York state, where Wednesday Governor Andrew Cuomo announced a ban on fracking.

“We cannot afford to make a mistake,” [Cuomo said](#). “The potential risks [of fracking] are too great. In fact, they are not even fully known.”

Of yesterday’s victory Steingraber [says this](#): “It truly is a thing of beauty to see government living up to its purpose. Governments are tasked with protecting the health, safety and well-being of its citizenry.”

Steingraber’s [remarks are moving](#), and they remind any activist—or jostle any would-be activist—with a primer on why we do what we do and how we persevere.