

## **PREFACE**

The purpose of this research is to determine whether or not hydraulic fracturing for natural gas is a match for the Town of Rensselaerville. All five committee members had a basic understanding of what hydraulic fracturing entailed, but beyond that, we were mutually involved in a total learning process. The committee research began in November after our appointment by the Town Board, and continued to the present time as we arrived at our conclusions and developed recommendations to the Board.

The fact that all five committee members began this study with approximately the same knowledge base proved very beneficial because it allowed us to openly and frankly share ideas and information as we worked through extensive research. An open-minded approach allowed us to sift through reams of data and information, separating available facts from mere rhetoric and emotion from common sense.

From the beginning of this study, all committee members were committed to focusing upon whether or not hydraulic fracturing for natural gas is a match for what is contained in the Town's Comprehensive Plan. The Plan, in turn, is a reflection of what the Town's citizens hold as important to our quality of life.

The document that follows investigates specific impacts hydraulic fracturing could and would have on our way of life, and the information we have gathered is reflected in the conclusions we draw and in the recommendations we make to the Town Board.

John Mormile  
Committee Chairman