

Frac Sand Sentinel

...keeping watch on the industry

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SOME DAYS DEMAND SPECIAL WORK! THIS IS ONE. SANDRA STEINGRABER, FROM THE SENECA LAKES REGION, IS TO BE HONORED FOR HER BOLD AND SPECIAL STAND ON BEHALF OF US ALL. AT THIS MOMENT SHE IS SERVING HER TIME IN JAIL.

I received this special note of encouragement from Jay, my friend in New York. He sent this to a number of important legislators who were encouraged to read the message. I hope you will take time to read his messages and also take time to read the message from Sandra!

A MESSAGE FROM JAY:

Perhaps you've heard about a 53 year-old mother and Finger Lakes resident named Sandra Steingraber? She was arrested last week and sentenced to 15 days jail for an act of civil disobedience that she did for you and me, knowing full well that she would be fined or incarcerated (she chose the latter as an act of self-sacrifice, so that others might be emboldened by her example).

After exhausting every legal avenue to protect her community from harm, she knowingly "trespassed" against an out-of-state company who is putting a liquefied petroleum gas storage facility in a salt cavern next to Lake Seneca, the source of drinking water for 100,000 people. In other places, these types of storage facilities have had a troubled safety records, including catastrophic leaks, sinkholes, explosions, and collapses.

If Sandra is willing to spend 15 days in jail for you to learn more about the dangers of fracking and related natural gas pumping, storage and delivery problems, then I would think that you would be willing to sacrifice an hour to listen to her interview with Bill Moyers done just hours before she was jailed.

<http://www.commondreams.org/video/2013/04/20>

I couldn't help but be reminded of Dr. Martin Luther King as I watched and listened to this person who uses her love, professional intellect and totally rational reasoning to make her case against the extraction and use of fossil deposits as well as the larger issue of climate change:

*"Sooner or later, my children have to grow up and enter the world. They are going to need pollinators, they are going to need coral reefs, and they are going to need the ice caps frozen so the climate remains stable. It's my job to address myself to those issues. I can't tell people what they should do, because I don't know what skill sets they have, but I can say that **it is time to play the Save-The-World-Symphony. I***

don't know what instrument you hold, but you need to play it as best you can and find your place in the score. You don't have to play solo here. But this is our task now.

On Earth Day, as Sandra entered her jail cell, another advocate for sustainable energy, Tim DeChristopher, was being released from his, after serving 18 months for his act of civil disobedience against the oil & gas industry.

<http://grist.org/climate-energy/a-tale-of-two-earth-day-heroes/>

I thanked Jay for his wonderful note.....and received this one in return!

Yes, Pat, the Moyer's interview was one of his all-time best, as Art Hunt said to me in his reply, and certainly deserves watching in its entirety at least once - and the short section on bees at the end gave soft closure to Sandra's stunning presentation. Then, as you point out, Bill McKibben's film also came at the same issue with striking clarity in his exposé on the morally unfounded imprisonment of Tim DeChristopher initiated by the Bush administration and shockingly carried out by the Obama administration (so, we shouldn't be looking for any major turnaround in government support to end climate change here).

Like Sandra, Tim's story is another poignant example of non-violent action against a society that has lost its sense of what is really right from a host of thinly disguised (but heavily sponsored) wrongs – a society where even those who have been adequately exposed to the issue have slipped into the never never land of “well informed futility” (what a great phrase Sandra used!).

I agree with your feeling that an effort should be made to unite these people and their stories. In that regard, I think Tim's story:

<http://grist.org/article/2011-03-03-tim-dechristopher-found-guilty-shows-power-of-nonviolent-civil/> also needs special treatment on its own on Hank's website as well as other websites devoted to raising public awareness of what is currently happening to our environment on a worldwide scale.

It would seem to me that it is time for webmasters to focus on what people like Sandra and Tim are doing to make their voices heard as a means of raising public awareness – that's the lesson we all should have learned from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. ... and first Tim and now Sandra are certainly following the historic example that Dr. King set 50 years ago in his *Letter >From Birmingham Jail* (a must read for all of us today)

http://mlk-kpp01.stanford.edu/index.php/resources/article/annotated_letter_from_birmingham/

Perhaps there should be a new section on all activist websites devoted to the huge sacrifice that citizens are beginning to individually make in order to force us all to address the disastrous course we are taking with respect to our continued focus on the further “development” of fossil-based applications – not just fuel, as Sandra so eloquently points out in her interview with Moyers.

I'm sure Hank will decide how to best post the information I sent to my elected representatives. I copied him on what I sent you.

Thanks for your response and your continued work to leave a better environment for our grandchildren.

- - Jay

This morning I received a copy of Sandra Steingraber's letter from jail. Please do take the time to read it! She mentions WISCONSIN and the scalping of our hills, ridges, coulees, and bluffs! We must work to tie together what is happening in the hydraulic fracturing industry with the continual push for the use of fossil fuels and the contributions being made by the silica mining issues raised here in Wisconsin and the Midwest! Thank you, Sandra , for your continuing sacrifice on behalf of all of us. Your work can motivate us to become even more involved in interest of the future of generations to come!

Latest Steingraber letter from jail

April 22, 2013

TO: FRED KRUPP, Environmental Defense Fund
FRANCES BEINECKE, Natural Resource Defense Council
MICHAEL BRUNE, Sierra Club
PHILIP JOHNSON, Heinz Endowments, and
Other fellow leaders in the environmental community:

While confined in the Chemung County Jail, here in the southern tier of upstate New York, I have had to think deeply and long about the environmental community's response to the boom in natural gas extraction from shale via hydraulic fracking, which is now sweeping the nation, from west to east. I write to share with you my insights regarding the split within our community over whether to embrace a regulatory approach to fracking, or to press for bans and moratoria.

I'll begin by explaining why I am in jail. Last month, on the west shore of Seneca Lake, I stood with other local residents on a driveway owned by Inergy, LLC.

In so doing, we blockaded a gas compressor station site and prevented a company truck, carrying a drill head in its truck bed, from going where that truck wanted to go. When we refused to disband, we were arrested and charged with trespassing. When three of us further refused, at our arraignment on April 17th, to pay the resulting fine, we were each sentenced to 15 days in jail. I am writing to you on day 6 of my incarceration.

As the nation's largest energy storage and transportation company, Inergy provides the infrastructure for fracking – including within states like New York, where high-volume, horizontal fracking is not allowed. Missouri-based Inergy has purchased more than 500 acres of lakeshore property along the banks of our state's largest and deepest lake. Seneca Lake is so large and deep that it creates its own temperature stabilizing microclimate, which provides the necessary ecological conditions for our state's world-class Riesling grapes. Wineries flourish on the hillsides about both banks of the Finger Lake. Inergy is interested in neither the wine grapes nor our unique climate. It does not care about Seneca Lake's designation as the Lake Trout Capital of the world, nor the tranquil views that draw tourists and fill summer cottages. Nor, more basically, with the fact that Seneca Lake is the drinking water source for 100,000 people.

Inergy's interest is, instead, focused on the landscape below the surface – namely the abandoned caverns left over from a century of solution salt mining that lie 1,500 feet beneath and beside the lake shore. Inergy's plan is to repurpose these salt caverns to serve as storage for billions of barrels of fracked gases, which will be brought to Seneca Lake by rail and by truck from other states. However, these fuels will not be stored in barrels. The caverns themselves will serve as the receptacle for the pressurized, liquefied, explosive gases.

The Seneca Lake 12 – as we arrestees call ourselves – fear that Inergy's planned storage facilities pose serious risks, including calamitous ones. As journalist Peter Mantius reports in *DC Bureau*, salt caverns represented



All document references can be found at www.ccc-wis.com Please sign up for ALERTS from the website.

Welcome to the Frac Sand Sentinel, a newsletter highlighting resource links, news media accounts, blog posts, correspondence, observations and opinions gathered regarding local actions on, and impacts of, the developing frac sand mining and processing industries.

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