

Andrew J. O'Connor: Beginning of the end for oil and gas industry?

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On Thursday, New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio announced that the New York City pension fund was divesting itself of \$4 billion worth of gas and oil stocks and filed a [federal lawsuit](#) against the five biggest publicly-traded oil companies in the world for damages sustained by their city and their residents caused by Hurricane Sandy which were in turn proximately caused by the actions of the oil and gas corporations in causing climate change.

This is exactly what the city of Lafayette, Erie, Broomfield, Longmont, Louisville, Boulder, Boulder County and other Front Range communities adversely impacted by fracking must do. Extraction, Noble Energy, Anadarko, etc., must be sued immediately in federal court. I believe that local communities must take this action in order to protect their communities and residents from the existential threat of fracking.

During his press conference, Mayor de Blasio said that New York City was not waiting for the federal government to act. Similarly, Lafayette and Boulder and Boulder County cannot wait for the state of Colorado to act. Filing a lawsuit against oil and gas companies is the solution and the answer to counter the existential threat of fracking. City attorneys across the Front Range should use the New York City lawsuit as a template in order to recover damages for their residents and communities for the harm caused by the oil and gas industry. I believe that this lawsuit may be the beginning of the end for the oil and gas industry in the U.S. Hallelujah!

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Lafayette

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