I wish to submit a comment to the EFRA committee regarding tourism in England. I live in Ryedale which as you will be aware, is currently one of the areas earmarked to develop the Fracking industry. It is also an area heavily dependent on tourism which has a value running into tens of millions of pounds.

Any industrial development will inevitably have an adverse effect on the industry. Not only will it scar what is currently a pristine and historic landscape, but tourists will not take kindly to the increased heavy goods traffic on what are already busy roads in the tourist season. In addition, there are very real concerns about health issues and the dangers from accidents involving heavy goods vehicles carrying toxic waste. It is little wonder that the major tourist attractions in the area such as Flamingo Land and Castle Howard have voiced their opposition to such a development.

Tourism is an industry that can take years to develop but can be destroyed in a very short time. Experience in other parts of the world has shown that fracking, by its very nature, is short-lived. When wells run dry, which they do relatively quickly, then more need to be drilled. For your purposes this has two consequences. Firstly, after a possible boom time when tourist money may perhaps be replaced by gas revenues, this money dries up and the area faces a depressed future as the tourism has gone. Secondly, the constant need to develop more wells means that industrialisation over a wider and wider area becomes inevitable. Estimates from the gas companies themselves see the number of wells in Ryedale running into thousands - a far cry from the twenty conventional wells that exist at the moment. You are looking at the future of tourism. I am afraid that in our area this would be bleak. I would therefore urge you to use your influence to stop the development of fracking and preserve the thriving tourist industry for future generations.

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