I am responding to this enquiry because I live in North Yorkshire within an area called Ryedale (Ryedale District Council). I am retired, my home address is in the town of Pickering and I have lived here for over 20 years.

This is an area in which traditionally a number of residents have depended on tourism for their income. Examples are small family run hotels, bed & breakfast establishments, holidays cottages, camping sites and numerous small cafes and restaurants.

This area has a number of well known attractions which includes the North York Moors National Park, the North York Moors Railway, Flamingo Land and also close by are the east coast resorts of Whitby, Robin Hood's Bay, Scarborough and Filey.

From my perspective the problems for areas like ours are:

- That there is very little prospect of obtaining well paid regular employment due to a lack of viable businesses.
- The work that is available is mainly seasonal, often part-time and rates of pay are the very minimum rates available.
- The ‘tourist season’ runs from only Easter to Autumn.
- Little work is available from Autumn to Easter.
- Currently there is very little affordable housing available for young people and it is hard to see that this will substantially improve in the future.

How can we improve this situation?:

- Welcome and support industries which involve new technologies that will give all year round employment.
- This area has in the near future the possibility of becoming industry leaders in the field of onshore shale gas extraction but this will only come about with the backing of Government.

Conclusion:

- Shale gas extraction in Ryedale has the potential to transform the energy industry in this country to the benefit of the entire nation and for Ryedale in particular to provide all year round well paid jobs.
- All of this can be achieved without impacting upon tourism in this area.

Additional comments:

- Many influential residents of this area are predominately middle class, elderly and retired and who do not welcome change. They go to incredible lengths to condemn an industry with doomsday scenarios, their imagination
knowing no bounds in describing the horrors that will overwhelm this area if fracking is allowed. The antis may have concerns but I have worked with engineers all of my working life and know from experience that they would never jeopardise the pleasant life that we enjoy in this area.

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