We are responding to this enquiry to emphasize our concerns about the effect that fracking would have on rural tourism in England. We feel it is the greatest challenge to tourism growth faced by rural communities.

We live in Ryedale, North Yorkshire, which has recently been in the national news headlines due to planning permission being granted by North Yorkshire County Council for test fracking to go ahead at the KMS8 site, Kirbymisperton. Our holiday cottage business is within four miles of KMS8 and we feel we will lose a considerable amount of bookings if fracking is allowed. Already some of our clients have suggested that they would not holiday in Ryedale due to concerns regarding health risks, water contamination and the threatened industrialisation of such a beautiful landscape should fracking become established in Yorkshire.

We have invested a considerable amount of money in converting a redundant farm building to a holiday cottage but have now decided not to look at increasing the development due to the uncertainty that fracking has brought to the industry. We believe that tourism in Ryedale and throughout the country will be seriously affected by fracking and wish to put forward the following points for consideration:

- The major part of the economy of Ryedale is supported by agriculture and tourism. We believe this will be seriously affected by the industrialisation of the area brought about by fracking. Many family run farms are heavily dependant upon tourism as a supplementary income; fracking will put this at risk.
- The landscape of many parts of Ryedale (and the UK) will be transformed from places of beauty to industrial sites. Affected areas will have hundreds of wells per 10 x 10 km² which will clearly have a devastating effect on tourism and the related economy.
- Holidaymakers will avoid parts of the country affected by the fracking industry. This in turn will impact upon employment. Specialist employment created by the fracking industry will not provide jobs for those affected by the loss of tourism.
- Heavy industry traffic would put off holidaymakers. Our rural infrastructure is not capable of accommodating tourist and industrial traffic in addition to the agricultural and local traffic already on the roads. It would render holidaymaking in Ryedale just too much hard work.
- Many fracking sites are in an area rich in wildlife which attract holidaymakers to holiday properties. The effect of fracking, e.g. light and air pollution, noise and
increased traffic will impact greatly on the habitat of many species and will have a detrimental effect on the number of visitors to the countryside.

Fracking is a very unpopular process and if it goes ahead will seriously impact upon the tourism industry, and consequently the economy of rural areas where it is carried out. This is supported by Defra’s own report (in draft form) of July 2015. We therefore ask that the EFRA Select Committee call for a moratorium on fracking/ unconventional gas production with immediate effect and commission an independent report on the impact of the shale gas industry on the rural economy including tourism.

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