



March 11, 2019

The Honorable Phil Murphy, Chairman
The Honorable Andrew Cuomo
The Honorable Tom Wolf
The Honorable John Carney
Commissioners, Delaware River Basin Commission

Delaware River Basin Commission
PO Box 7360
West Trenton NJ 08628-0360

Dear Chairman Phil Murphy and Commissioners Andrew Cuomo, Tom Wolf, and John Carney,

The Concerned Health Professionals of New York and the Physicians for Social Responsibility released the Fifth Edition of ***The Compendium of Scientific, Medical, and Media Findings Demonstrating Risks and Harms of Fracking*** (“the Compendium”) in March 2018. The Fifth Edition of this authoritative report, started in 2014, examines the impacts of fracking on the environment and public health. The findings are highly relevant to the DRBC’s consideration of a permanent ban on fracking and its associated activities throughout the Delaware River Basin, including a ban on wastewater storage, processing and discharges in the Basin, and a ban on water exports from the watershed for use in fracking elsewhere.

The Compendium was submitted to the Delaware River Basin Commission during the public comment period regarding the Commission’s draft natural gas regulations in 2018. Numerous comments by the public based on the findings and reports contained in the Compendium regarding the health effects of fracking and its related activities were submitted to the DRBC’s record as well.

The Compendium analyzed over 1,200 peer reviewed research articles on the impacts of fracking. Many of the reports included in the Compendium document harms to the health of people who live in Pennsylvania’s Marcellus Shale region, the same formation underlying the much of the Delaware River Basin and the likely source of wastewater that would be imported for disposal, if the DRBC does not prohibit the activity. As health professionals, we are asking that you consider your upcoming decision regarding a complete ban on fracking and its activities in the context of these scientific studies of impacts and the expanding list of adverse human health impacts that have emerged with the advent of fracking.

The conclusion of the report is clear: The “...findings to date from scientific, medical, and journalistic investigations combine to demonstrate that fracking poses significant threats to air, water, health, public safety, climate stability, seismic stability, community cohesion, and long-term economic vitality. Emerging data from a rapidly expanding body of evidence continue to reveal a plethora of recurring problems and harms that cannot be sufficiently averted through

regulatory frameworks. There is no evidence that fracking can operate without threatening public health directly or without imperiling climate stability upon which public health depends.” (psr.org/resources/fracking-compendium.html p. 266)

We request that you, as the Commissioners who have the responsibility to decide on the proposed ban and the draft natural gas regulations, vote “yes” for the watershed-wide ban on fracking and vote “no” on the proposed draft natural gas regulations that would allow fracking wastewater and water withdrawals for fracking, thereby voting to ban all of these fracking-related activities in the Delaware River Basin.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathleen Nolan, MD, MSL". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Kathleen Nolan, MD, MSL

Co-Founder, Concerned Health Professionals of New York

845-417-6489 (mobile)

cc: Executive Director Steve Tambini, DRBC