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**The Demand for a Ban on Fracking in the Delaware River Watershed  
Heard Loud and Clear at Delaware River Basin Commission Meeting**

*Individuals and organizations testify as to why they are personally  
committed to a permanent fracking ban*

*Washington Crossing, PA* – On Wednesday, June 14th, people from all walks of life converged on the Delaware River Basin Commission's business meeting to tell the Commissioners why each individual demands a permanent ban on gas drilling and fracking in the Delaware River Watershed.

News that the Commission may lift the current fracking moratorium in deference to the industry, and concerns that Donald Trump's federal representative on the Commission may aggressively push the other voting members to allow drilling to commence, has brought hundreds of protesters to recent meetings of the Commission. The Wild and Scenic Delaware River provides drinking water for 17 million people in four states, including New York City and Philadelphia metropolitan areas.

Since 2010, the DRBC has prohibited natural gas extraction projects in the Delaware River Basin while they study its potential impacts on water resources, a *de-facto* moratorium that does not allow permits to be issued until natural gas regulations are adopted. President Trump's federal representative from the Army Corps of Engineers holds one of five votes on the Commission; the Governors of Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey and Delaware hold the rest.

Today, individuals stated that scientific, moral, health and public policy imperatives require a permanent ban so that fracking will never be allowed to endanger the Wild and Scenic Delaware River and the water supply for 17 million people, including New York City and Philadelphia metropolitan areas. The overwhelming weight of the evidence shows that shale gas cannot be extracted or developed safely and to do so would cause irreparable harm to communities and the environment, making this the right time to enact a Watershed ban on all gas development.

"The highest priority of the DRBC is to protect the drinking water of the 15 million Americans who depend on the Delaware River's purity. The scientific literature is clear that groundwater contamination and earthquakes from deep injection wells from fracking is too big a risk to take," **said Dr. Walter Tsou, past president of the American Public Health Association, former health commissioner of Philadelphia, and Physicians for Social Responsibility, Philadelphia** ([walter@psrphila.org](mailto:walter@psrphila.org)).

"Our borough works hard to safeguard the water supply of the more than 5,000 permanent residents and our transient population of Kutztown University students, so Borough Council passed a resolution calling for a ban on fracking in the Delaware River watershed without hesitation, understanding the profound adverse impacts fracking has on water quality and much more," **said Karen Feridun, Vice Chair, Kutztown Borough Planning Commission and Founder of Berks Gas Truth.**

"Almost every major religious denomination in Pennsylvania is on record in opposing any expansion of fracking in our state, representing broad diversity. Pope Francis himself could not be clearer in his call to all people, not just Roman Catholics, to press for a swift transition to a clean energy future. Allowing fracking in the Delaware River watershed would further endanger the health of some of the region's most densely populated and overburdened communities," **said Reverend Cynthia Crowner of Stroudsburg, PA** ([crownerc@icloud.com](mailto:crownerc@icloud.com)).

"As a college student that grew up in Pittsburgh, the opportunity we have here to put people over profits is empowering and hopeful. It's time to ban fracking in the Delaware River Basin," **said Xaver Kandler, rising senior, Bard College, NY.**

"It is past time to turn the temporary moratorium on fracking in the Delaware River Basin into a permanent ban. The Delaware River is the water source for 17 million people, including thousands of Delawareans, who have nothing to gain and everything to lose if drilling is allowed in our watershed. Rather than clinging to the dirty and dangerous energy sources of the past, our states should continue to lead by banning fracking in the region--making a clear statement that we value our health, water quality, and our children's future more than fossil fuels," **said Stephanie Herron, Outreach Coordinator, Sierra Club, Delaware Chapter.**

"As a mother and as a faith leader at this time of crisis for humanity and for the Earth upon which we live, I believe that the only responsible path forward is a rapid transition away from extracting and burning fossil fuels, and thus I call for a permanent fracking ban in the Delaware River Watershed," **said Rabbi Malkah Binah Klein, co-chair, Philadelphia Chapter of PA IPL (Pennsylvania Interfaith Power & Light)** ([malkahbinah@gmail.com](mailto:malkahbinah@gmail.com)).

“We’re entering a critical time when it comes to protecting the river and the drinking water for 17 million people from fracking by passing a permanent ban now. It’s more important than ever that we preserve our resources with the Trump Administration in power. The people of the Delaware River Valley want to protect the treasures of the basin and support a permanent end to fracking in the region. The region is being threatened by fossil fuels through fracking and pipelines and we must stand against these projects. That is why we are urging the Commission to defend the Delaware and uphold all of these protections by making the fracking ban permanent,” **said Jeff Tittel, Director, New Jersey Sierra Club.**

“In the age of Trump, where the federal government is doing all it can to erode basic safeguards to public health, we have an opportunity to protect our land, drinking water and communities by banning fracking in the Delaware River Basin,” **said Rob Friedman, Policy Advocate, Natural Resources Defense Council.**

"The DRBC is responsible for making sure we have clean drinking water and for protecting the Watershed from the degradation we know that fracking would cause. Clean Water Action’s 100,000+ members are telling DRBC today – we want you to fulfill your mission by enacting a permanent ban now," **said David Pringle, NJ Campaign Director of Clean Water Action.**

"The DRBC has the scientific support to move towards a ban on fracking in the Delaware River watershed. Today's hearing shows the public from all walks of life across the watershed support a fracking ban," said Doug O'Malley, director of Environment New Jersey. "In the Trump era, we can't depend on the federal government to protect our watershed. The public is calling loud and clear for this regional body to act to permanently protect the watershed from the threat of gas drilling," **said Doug O'Malley, Director, Environment New Jersey's director.**

“There are a host of important reasons people from diverse walks of life support a permanent ban on gas drilling and fracking in the Delaware River Watershed and individuals today expressed that to the members of the Delaware River Basin Commission who ultimately will vote on whether or not to protect the watershed from the devastation that fracking brings. They heard us today, we demand a fracking ban” **said Tracy Carluccio, Deputy Director, Delaware Riverkeeper Network.**

This was the last meeting where all the Commissioners will be present until after the summer. Members of the public signed up in advance to speak during a very limited public comment session. People came out to speak their mind about the need for a fracking ban to decisionmakers to whom they don’t have ready access despite the tremendous import of their decisions on the health of the Delaware River, its Watershed and its communities.

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