

## **Delaware Riverkeeper Network ~ Berks Gas Truth NJ Sierra Club ~ Clean Water Action ~ Environment NJ**

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### **March to Defend the Delaware River Saturday Nov. 19 Noon to 1pm The Recent Election Brings Big Threats to Our River and Region!**

*Delaware River at Trenton/Morrisville* - In response to the federal elections and announcements by the new Presidential Administration as well as the leadership from the Republican Senate and House that they intend to make rollbacks of environmental protections a top priority, people from across the region are coming together at the Calhoun Street Bridge between Trenton, NJ and Morrisville, PA on Saturday, November 19 from 12:00 noon to 1:00 pm to show solidarity in protecting the Delaware River, including turning the current moratorium on fracking into a permanent ban.

"We are coming together to defend our Delaware River from rollbacks that jeopardize its beauty and health, including ensuring the moratorium against fracking is forever protected by demanding that the DRBC Commissioners take immediate action to transform it into a permanent ban," **said Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper and leader of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network.** "The Delaware River is the drinking water supply of 17 million, when it is clean and healthy it provides over 20 billion dollars of annual benefit to our region, it is the place people and families come to relax, swim, boat, fish and enjoy their lives, it is a river revered for its historic significance and its incredible ecological beauty and we are here today to make clear that we will not tolerate reduced environmental protections and will do what we have to Defend Our Delaware River."

"Trump has laid out an environmental agenda that is an all-out assault on our natural resources, our communities, and, given the urgent need for climate action, our planet. We don't intend to let him take us down such a destructive path here in the Delaware River basin or anywhere. Nor will we accept anything but the most aggressive action by our public officials in thwarting his dangerous plans," **said Karen Feridun, Founder of Berks Gas Truth.**

"We're mobilizing now because we take President-elect Trump at his word. He has said he wants to gut the very framework that would ensure clean air and safe drinking water in the years to come - the Clean Power Plan, the Climate Action Plan, and the basic core of the Clean Water Act. Republican leaders in Congress are even more extreme. That's not what the American people voted for and they are rising up and fighting back to ensure it doesn't happen. We can't afford jobs that make us sick especially when there's a viable alternative - good jobs, clean air, and clean water in a clean energy economy. Our kids and grandkids are depending on it," **said David Pringle, NJ Campaign Director for Clean Water Action.**

"The Delaware River and Watershed are, like all communities across the country, under a threat the likes of which we have not seen since the adoption of our essential federal environmental laws more than 40 years ago. We are gathering on the river Saturday to say that we will fight together against any and all attempts to weaken the protections we need for a healthy environment because our very lives and the our right to clean water and air are at stake," **said Tracy Carluccio, Deputy Director, Delaware Riverkeeper Network.**

"The Delaware River and its watershed should not be a sacrifice zone in a Trump Administration," said Doug O'Malley, director of Environment New Jersey. "There are a multitude of threats we face --- pipelines, fracking, water pollution and the impacts of climate change. Now is the time to stand up for our environmental protections – and to mobilize the public and call for our local elected leaders to stand up for the Delaware River watershed," **said Doug O'Malley, Director, Environment New Jersey**

"We are united in our efforts to defend the Delaware River from President-elect Trump's plan to weaken and roll back important environment protections. For decades, we have fought to protect the Delaware River from inappropriate development, dirty energy, pollution, and degradation. With Trump's proposals, over 40 years of environmental progress is at risk, threatening the health of all people and even our entire planet. We are coming together to say clean water trumps fracking and pipelines," **said Jeff Tittel, Director of the New Jersey Sierra Club.** "This election threatens the drinking water for more than 15 million people and our environment. Not only will Trump promote dirty fuels, but he denies climate change and wants to block clean renewable energy and green jobs. This is the biggest threat to the environment since before first Earth Day. Now more than ever we must demand a permanent ban on fracking in the Basin and end of destructive and dangerous pipelines. When they say rollback, we say fight back to protect our water!"

The March to Defend the Delaware River is the first action in a new campaign to Defend the Delaware from the threatened rollbacks of environmental protection laws promised by a Trump Administration and the newly elected house and senate

leadership and to urge the moratorium on fracking be transformed into a permanent ban in order to prevent its removal. The March to Defend the Delaware will take place at noon on Saturday with people from around the region marching in an infinity loop of protection, singing, chanting and carrying signs. Marchers who are moved to speak to the crowd will step out and speak about their commitment to protect the River and the special role it has played in their lives.

Link to the Facebook event for the march is:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/231741907245350/>

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