

The Honorable John H. Quigley  
Department of Environmental Protection  
Rachel Carson Office Building  
P.O. Box 2063  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2063

June 30, 2015

Dear Secretary Quigley,

We, the undersigned organizations, oppose Senate Bill 875 – “An Act providing for the use of treated mine water for oil and gas development”. The bill has passed in both the Senate and was approved by the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee. If the House votes in favor of SB 875, we will be calling on Governor Wolf to veto the bill. We are writing to ask for your support.

Peer-reviewed science does not support the General Assembly’s claims that treated coal mine water is “an acceptable source of water” and can be “effectively substituted for fresh water” for use in oil and gas well development. In fact, very little research is available on how mine water reacts with fracking chemicals and information that is available exposes several problems that can result from the use of mine water – problems that responsible parties could be shielded from if this bill is enacted.

The lack of research is just one of several concerns we have detailed in the enclosed memo that we submitted to the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee in advance of its consideration of SB 875. It is riddled with problems and contains unfair and dangerous provisions that must be addressed to protect the public and the environment. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss them with you.

Sincerely,

Berks Gas Truth, Karen Feridun, Founder  
Citizens for Water, Joe Levine, Director  
Clean Water Action - Pennsylvania, Steve Hvozdoich, PA Campaigns Director  
Damascus Citizens for Sustainability, Barbara Arrindell, Director  
Delaware Riverkeeper Network, Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper and Tracy Carluccio, Deputy Director  
LAWPA (Local Authority Western PA) - Debra Borowiec - Co-ordinator  
Mountain Watershed Association, Beverly Braverman, Executive Director  
NYH2O, Buck Moorhead, Chair

Peach Bottom Concerned Citizens Group, Maria Payan, Executive Director, York County, PA  
PennEnvironment, David Masur, Executive Director  
Pennsylvania Alliance for Clean Water and Air, Jenny Lisak, Co-director  
Sierra Club Pennsylvania Chapter, Joanne Kilgour, Chapter Director  
UPCAMP (Upper Burrell Citizens Against Marcellus Pollution) - Ron Slabe - Co-Founder  
Youghiogheny Riverkeeper, Krissy Kasserman