

For Immediate Release: June 12, 2013

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**Activists Pressure Assembly Leaders on Fracking Waste Ban with Delivery of
More Than 17,000 Public Signatures**

***Delivery Comes Amid Statewide Campaign to Overturn Governor's Veto of Bill;
Action Needed to Protect State from Toxic Frack Waste This Legislative Session***

Trenton, NJ – Residents, activists and community leaders held coordinated actions across the state today to pressure legislative leaders into acting on the Fracking Waste Ban Bill. Notably, they collected and delivered more than 17,000 petition signatures in support of the measure to Assembly Speaker Oliver and Assembly Minority Leader Bramnick.

The Fracking Waste Ban Bill would protect residents by banning the disposal, treatment and discharge of toxic waste created through the process of fracking, a highly controversial natural gas drilling method. The legislation was passed with overwhelming bipartisan support last year but was vetoed by the governor in September. At various rallies today, activists dressed as ostriches, urging Oliver and Bramnick not to “bury their heads in the sand” but instead take immediate action to protect state residents.

“It’s very simple – the people of New Jersey want this veto overridden, and they’re expecting legislative leaders to act now,” said **Jim Walsh, regional director of Food & Water Watch**. “There’s nothing more important than the health and safety of New Jersey families, and an inundation of toxic fracking waste into our state would threaten that.”

New Jersey’s wastewater treatment facilities are not designed to handle the toxins found in fracking wastewater and cannot remove all the toxics before discharging the waste into public waterways. Fracking waste is exempted from critical federal protections regulating the disposal of hazardous waste and toxic materials.

“This is the most important clean water issue New Jersey has faced since the passage of the Clean Water Act 40 years ago. If we had fracking waste stored here when Sandy hit a disaster would have become an environmental nightmare,” said **Jeff Tittel, director of NJ Sierra Club**. “We already have enough toxic sites and polluted water, we do not need to create more through fracking waste. We need the legislature to stand up for clean water and against special interests by voting to override the veto.”

Analysis from the non-partisan Office of Legislative Services [confirms the constitutionality of the legislation](#), directly refuting the governor's claims to the contrary. [A recent study from Stony Brook University](#) finds that the greatest risk of contamination of drinking water and environmental pollution from the fracking process occurs during the wastewater disposal period.

"The legislature took a stand to protect our drinking water and communities from frack waste pollution with the passage of the Frack Waste Ban Bill. With the governor's veto, the bill will die unless the legislature stands up again," said **Tracy Carluccio, deputy director of Delaware Riverkeeper Network**. "We need all those who voted to prohibit the dumping of this waste to vote again to override the veto to prevent the pollution and health impacts that will result from this radioactive material."

"This is an important vote – to protect our drinking water, to avoid enabling climate disruption in a post-Sandy New Jersey, and to bring hope to citizens that their representatives will put partisan politics aside and do the right thing," said **Dave Pringle, campaign director of New Jersey Environmental Federation**. "It's one thing to vote the right way when your vote's not needed, but it's another when your vote will be the difference maker."

To learn more about this issue and hear it publicly discussed, attend Josh Fox's Gasland Part II on Saturday June 15 at the New Jersey State Museum in Trenton, NJ. Gasland II is a myth-piercing documentary about the gas drilling and fracking industry and what it is doing to America's communities and water supplies—Josh Fox will host 2 NJ screenings on Saturday: <http://www.delawariverkeeper.org/about/event.aspx?id=389>

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