



For Immediate Release
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Delaware Riverkeeper Gives Award to Yardley Borough for Environmental Leadership

Bristol, PA – At this week’s Borough council meeting the Delaware Riverkeeper Network honored the Borough of Yardley for its role in successfully challenging Pennsylvania’s oil and gas act, known as Act 13. The Delaware Riverkeeper, Maya van Rossum, attended the Borough Council meeting to personally thank the Council members for their service to the River and to give them a framed award acknowledging the town’s bold steps that protected municipal authority for all town’s across Pennsylvania and secured a precedent setting decision that raises the bar on environmental protection by reinvigorating the state’s constitutional Environmental Rights Amendment.



Act 13, was passed in 2012 and changed how oil and gas drilling in the state were regulated. As written, Act 13 would have forced every municipality in Pennsylvania to allow gas drilling and related industrial operations in each and every zoning district.

“The Borough of Yardley, along with six other municipalities, challenged Act 13 to vindicate the fundamental rights of Pennsylvanians embodied in the Environmental Rights Amendment of the Pennsylvania Constitution,” said Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper. She added, “The state Supreme Court’s decision in this case has breathed new life into Pennsylvania’s Environmental Rights Amendment—declaring that it promises all generations of Pennsylvanians that they will benefit from pure water, clean air and a healthy environment; and giving them the ability to defend that right in the courts. Yardley Borough deserves recognition for the leadership shown in pursuing this challenge.”

This recognition from the Delaware Riverkeeper Network includes a framed Certificate of Commendation signed by the Delaware Riverkeeper and special community outreach by the organization recognizing the Town’s river protecting leadership.

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DRN is marking 25 years of working to protect the Delaware River, its streams, watershed and communities by inviting local governments to nominate their work for consideration for its Environmental Excellence awards. DRN encourages residents who are proud of an effort their community has undertaken to protect and restore the environment to work with their municipality to nominate that effort.

To learn more about DRN's Environmental Excellence awards or nominate your municipality, go online to <http://bit.ly/DRN-awards>. Nominations will be accepted through June 15, 2014. Applicants will be notified of their award status as decisions are made.

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