



**For Immediate Release**

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## **Gas Drilling Industry and Legislators Denied Intervention In Legal Challenge to Act 13 Gas Drilling Law**

**Harrisburg, PA** -- Senior Commonwealth Court Judge Keith Quigley denied the petition by representatives from the gas drilling industry and legislators to intervene in a legal challenge brought by the Delaware Riverkeeper Network and seven municipalities, including Yardley Borough and Nockamixon Township, challenging the recently passed Act 13 gas drilling legislation on the grounds it violates the Pennsylvania and United States Constitutions and endangers public health, natural resources, communities and the environment. In his ruling, Judge Quigley found that both the industry and the legislators were already being adequately represented by the State Attorney General and documents regarding the passage of the legislation already in the legislative history created during the passage of the law.

“This is an important ruling by Judge Quigley, he is honoring the importance of keeping the focus on the facts and the law when it comes to Act 13 rather than allowing the challenge to turn into a drawn out media circus filled with the obfuscation and the misrepresentation the gas drillers are attempting to bring to the action,” said **Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper** and plaintiff in the legal action. “As for the PA legislators, giving them two bites at the apple on this legislation would simply be adding insult to injury against the public these legislators have already

so damaged with their wholesale handover to the gas drillers of the health, safety and quality of our Pennsylvania communities, history and environments,” van Rossum added.

“The interests of the gas drilling industry are adequately represented by the Commonwealth. To suggest that the gas industry isn’t adequately represented by the government is like arguing that Phillies fans aren’t adequately represented at Citizens Bank Park or the Pittsburgh Steelers fans are not adequately represented at Heinz Field. The gas drillers are fully enmeshed in our state government and the state government can represent them just fine,” said **Jordan Yeager, Esq.**, representing the Delaware Riverkeeper Network, Nockamixon Township and Yardley Borough.

Act 13, also known as HB1950, was signed into law by Governor Corbett on February 14, 2012. Act 13 amends the Pennsylvania Oil and Gas Act, preempting municipal zoning of oil and gas development. It also establishes an impact fee on natural gas. The municipalities and Delaware Riverkeeper Network filed suit on March 29, 2012, challenging the new law on the grounds it violates the Pennsylvania and United States Constitutions and endangers public health, natural resources, communities and the environment.

Read the legal challenge here:

<http://www.delawareriverkeeper.org/resources/Comments/FINAL%20PETITION%20PART%201.pdf>

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