



For immediate Release

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Contact: Tracy Carluccio, DRN, [tracy@delawareriverkeeper.org](mailto:tracy@delawareriverkeeper.org) Mobile/text: 215.692.2329

### **Delaware Riverkeeper Network Statement Criticizing the PA Legislature's Philadelphia LNG Export Task Force Report Approval**

Harrisburg, PA - Delaware Riverkeeper Network criticized the report that was approved today, November 1<sup>st</sup>, by a majority vote at the meeting of the PA Legislative Philadelphia LNG Task Force. Representative Joe Hohenstein was the lone "no" vote on the Report. Even though a copy of the report is not yet publicly available, from the press release issued by Chair Martina White, it is clear this report has a predetermined conclusion based on the Task Force's biased hearings throughout 2023 that featured hand-picked testifiers who support the export of LNG from the Delaware River Ports.

The Report's ceaseless call for streamlining PADEP's environmental permitting process with the emphasis on profit making by private industry over protection of the environment and the health of communities makes it clear that the report did not listen to the community representative testifiers who raised up community concerns. The points in the Task Force press release characterizing the Report's findings are all canned pleadings from those who support expanding fossil fuel development and, specifically here in PA, the special interests of the fracking industry.

The devastating impacts of an LNG facility and terminal that would be located in southeastern PA, Chester, or anywhere in the Delaware River Ports are not mentioned in the Task Force Press release about the Report that is expected to be released in final form on Friday. The degradation of the quality of air and water for the communities whose health would be impacted is not mentioned nor the environmental and public safety threats that such a misplaced, dangerous and polluting terminal would impose. These are all crucial issues raised by community testifiers and the public at the hearings. DRN has low expectations for the veracity of the Task Force Report. DRN will be issuing comments on the Report once they finally allow the public to read it.

"It is more than likely this Report's conclusion was written long before there was a public process, based on the talking points in the Task Force press release. We did not expect an informative and independent report considering the hand-picked testifiers who support LNG exports and the predetermined agenda of Act 133 and the biased legislation that formed it, but if all the Report does is continue the drumbeat for supporting the special interests of the fracking industry, it will prove to be a waste of taxpayer money to have set up such a Task Force process," **said Tracy Carluccio, Deputy Director, Delaware Riverkeeper Network.**

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DELAWARE RIVERKEEPER NETWORK  
925 Canal Street, Suite 3701  
Bristol, PA 19007  
Office: (215) 369-1188  
fax: (215) 369-1181  
[drm@delawareriverkeeper.org](mailto:drm@delawareriverkeeper.org)  
[www.delawareriverkeeper.org](http://www.delawareriverkeeper.org)