

For Immediate Release: May 12, 2014

Contact:

Jim Walsh, Food & Water Watch, 732.979.6883

Tracy Carluccio, Delaware Riverkeeper Network 215.369.1188

Dave Pringle, Clean Water Action 732.996.4288

Jeff Tittel, Director, NJ Sierra Club, 609.558.9100

Doug O'Malley, Environment NJ 609.392.5151

Harriet Shugarman, Executive Director, ClimateMama 201.906.2675

**NJ Senate Passes Fracking Waste Ban with Bipartisan, Veto-Proof Vote
Community Leaders Laud Senate Leadership, Call on Assembly to Act Now**

Trenton, NJ: With a bipartisan, veto-proof majority, the New Jersey Senate voted to ban fracking waste processing and disposal today, 33-4. This bipartisan legislation would prohibit the dumping of fracking waste in New Jersey, ensuring that New Jersey's drinking water supplies don't meet the same fate as waterways in Pennsylvania that have been found to contain radioactive elements, heavy metals, and known carcinogens due to fracking waste dumping in the neighboring state.

"The NJ Senate has taken urgently needed action to ban frack waste to protect our drinking water and our health. The Assembly has championed the protection of the state from these hazardous and radioactive dregs in past legislative sessions, now is the moment for them to move the Frack Waste Ban Bill through the Environment Committee and on to an Assembly vote so we can achieve the protections we need here in New Jersey," said **Tracy Carluccio, Deputy Director, Delaware Riverkeeper Network**.

"The Senate has shown tremendous leadership in New Jersey and the country by passing a fracking waste ban today. Now we need the Assembly to send this bill to Governor Christie's desk for a signature," said **Jim Walsh, New Jersey Director, Food & Water Watch**. "Fracking waste is a clear and present threat to our communities. Banning the dumping of this toxic mess will help make drinking water is clean and safe for future generations."

"Kudos to the NJ Senate for taking the right action to protect our clean water, now it's the Assembly's turn. We can't move fast enough. From earthquakes and the climate crisis to dirty water and air toxins, fracking and its waste are an increasing threat that has to be stopped and this legislation is an important step in that direction," said **Dave Pringle, Campaign Manager, Clean Water Action**.

"Dumping fracking waste in New Jersey waterways is still legal, and that's why today's bipartisan Senate majority to ban fracking waste is so needed," said **Doug Oa'Malley, Director of Environment New Jersey**. "We urge the State Assembly to move quickly to ban fracking waste, and send this bill to Gov. Christie's desk."

The Assembly Environment Committee has yet to act on the bill, but is expected to hold a hearing on early June. A vote passing the bill out of that committee would clear the way for a vote on the Assembly Floor before the legislature goes on recess at the end of June.

"The NJ Senate has taken urgently needed action to ban frack waste to protect our drinking water and our health. The Assembly has championed the protection of the state from these hazardous and radioactive dregs in past legislative sessions, now is the moment for them to move the Frack Waste Ban Bill through the Environment Committee and on to an Assembly vote so we can achieve the protections we need here in New Jersey," said **Tracy Carluccio, Deputy Director, Delaware Riverkeeper Network**.

"We applaud the NJ Senate in taking an important step toward protecting our most valuable resource, water. We anticipate the enactment of this bill as it moves to consideration in the House and will teach our children to watch the actions of these representatives as they record their votes," said **Christine O'Rourke, Co-Founder, Questioning Unsafe Environmental Choices (QUENCH)**.

The legislation easily passed both houses in the last legislative session with strong bipartisan majority, but was vetoed by Governor Christie. The Governor claimed the bill was not constitutional, despite analysis from the non-partisan Office of Legislative Services [confirming otherwise](#), directly refuting the governor's claims.

###