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Dear Commissioners,

There is significant evidence that the hydraulic fracturing (“fracking”) process has substantial adverse effects on public health, property interests, agriculture, and on our air, water, and land. A complete and permanent ban on natural gas drilling and fracking and all related activities, including wastewater processing and discharges from and water withdrawals for drilling and fracking operations throughout the Delaware River Watershed, is needed because the only sure way to prevent pollution from fracking and its activities is to totally ban it. I urge you to enact a permanent and comprehensive ban on fracking in the Delaware River basin.

Climate changed. We see the evidence of it everywhere. The only hope we have now is to speed the transition to clean, renewable, sustainable energy. If we don’t, the impacts will not be limited to our water resources, but will endanger every aspect of our lives and very our survival. The DRBC must not allow any practices that enable more fossil fuel extraction anywhere. Protecting the water resources of the basin with a full fracking ban protects much more.

The DRBC is considering fracking regulations it is not capable of enforcing. The Commission relies on the watershed states’ environmental regulators to carry out enforcement of the rules it sets. State regulatory agencies are chronically understaffed and underfunded. It is unreasonable for the DRBC to place on state regulators the burden of enforcement of dangerous practices like fracking waste processing and extraction of water for fracking operations outside of the basin.

The Compendium of Scientific, Medical, and Media Findings Demonstrating Risks and Harms of Fracking's authors cite a 2017 study which found that “fracking wastewater discharged into rivers and streams through treatment plants created dozens of brominated and iodinated disinfection byproducts that are particularly toxic and “raise concerns regarding human health” (pg 18).

Sincerely

Christine Chorney