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Dear Commissioners,

As a senior citizen I most likely will not be around to experience the devastation that this fracking will bring to our state. However my children and grandchildren will. I am appalled by the lack of stewardship of our land that is occurring throughout our country. Please look beyond profit.

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., When a site is developed for gas well development, the change is dramatic, essentially transforming the land to an industrial landscape. The result is destruction of acres of vegetation (8.8 acres per well pad in 2011 with 30 acres of forest impacts due to edge effects, more than double that is the trend today), soil compaction and destruction of the natural land contours, alterations to watershed drainage patterns, and hydrologically connected systems such as wetlands and vernal pools. Habitats and complex ecosystems are disrupted or lost. 85% of the Upper Delaware where the Marcellus Shale is located is forested. Forest destruction and fragmentation in turn destroys the ability of the forest ecosystem to capture, clean, and infiltrate precipitation, removes the trees that sequester carbon, reduces biodiversity, encourages invasive species, and destroys vital habitat.

As stated in the Compendium of Scientific, Medical, and Media Findings Demonstrating Risks and Harms of Fracking, 5th Edition, growing evidence shows that regulations are simply not capable of preventing harm (pg 17). Further, cases of drinking water sources contaminated by drilling and fracking activities, or

by associated waste disposal, are now proven. EPA's assessment of fracking's impacts on drinking water resources confirmed specific instances of water contamination caused by drilling and fracking related activities and identified the various pathways by which this contamination has occurred: spills; discharge of fracking waste into rivers and streams; and underground migration of chemicals, including gas, into drinking water wells (pg18).

Looking at the results of this practice in the many areas where it is actively going on, it's effects on climate change in addition to pollution to our water supply are obvious. Our only hope is to join the majority of developed countries and transition to clean, renewable, sustainable energy.

Sincerely,

Marjorie Powers