I am an avid paddler of the Delaware River and was recently an attendee at the public Hearing no. 4. It is very clear that there needs to be a complete and permanent ban on natural gas drilling, fracking, and all related activities throughout the Delaware River Watershed (should be country wide). The ban is necessary to prevent any type of pollution or contamination as a result of hydraulic fracturing. The only sure way to prevent pollution from fracking and its activities are to totally ban it.

I attended the hearing January 25, 2018 to protect the Delaware River from fracking. I have been paddling the river since the mid 1970’s. I was totally overcome by the beauty of the river; it had such an impact on me that I received my college degree in recreation programming. I have worked for the Monmouth County Park System in NJ since 1985- programming trips down the Delaware River. Every year we take our Odyssey campers on a 5 day canoe overnight camp. Each year the camps change however the Delaware River Odyssey has always been offered- campers feel like it’s their rite of passage as teens. Though be able to enjoy the river- unplugged, working together, teaching environmental stewardship to the teens is amazing. Our future leaders are in the making on the Delaware.

When I’m not at work my husband I would take our two daughters canoe camping along the river since before 1 year old- we notch the paddle for each trip. As young adults our daughters now take their friends. Making memories on one of the best rivers in the nation needs to be a priority. Save the river.

We have seen the river come back to life with Osprey and Eagles- the fishing is still good- seeing black bear is a big excitement. The water is finally clean after many years of diligent work. Please don’t ruin it.

I believe you would all have to agree that Cost Rica even if you haven’t been but seen pictures is a beautiful place- Many years ago my husband and friends would take these three young boys paddling numerous times over the summer—on the Delaware! This young man now returns each summer from Costa Rica to share the experience with his wife and young son. Did I mention they come to vacation on the Delaware River from Costa Rica. There’s only one Delaware River to experience don’t drill the river.

 My brother in law is a Philly boy- born and raised in the row. He never camped or did outdoorsy things like paddle the Delaware River but it is now an annual trip for him. He reminded us that “it’s really not that quiet trying to sleep between the fish jumping , insects singing, eagles talking and the river rushing by our site, I thought the outdoors would be quieter that the city”. Don’t let greed get in the way of saving the Delaware River. A complete ban is necessary.

Like I said I am an avid paddler of the river, what I have learned is that fracking of any type is dangerous to our health, the wildlife and environment- there seems to be NO safe way to treat waste water. Impact will be horrendous and irreparable. We can’t live without clean water.

It is scary to think that you would even think about fracking when we know there is data on the unhealthy human effects associated with Hydraulic Fracturing: chronic oral exposure to the chemicals used that include carcinogenicity, neurotoxicity, immune system effects, changes in body weight, changes in blood chemistry, liver and kidney toxicity and reproductive and developmental toxicity. Frightening!!!

After listening to all the speakers at Hearing no. 4, the farmers, the environmentalist, the NY residents, the Bucks County locals, the south Jersey mom, the pediatric nurse to name a few all found it necessary to come and try to save the Delaware river Water Shed .All related activities to fracking, including wastewater processing and discharges from the water withdrawals for drilling and fracking operations throughout the Delaware River Watershed must be stopped because the only way to prevent pollution from fracking and it activities is to **Totally Ban IT.**

WE NEED A COMPLETE AND PERMINANT BAN NOW!