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Dear Commissioners,

Dear DRBC,

My family have owned a piece of property in Delaware County since the 1960's. The land was a dairy farm that the owner was selling, and we spent a lot of time there during my childhood. One of the beautiful things about the place is Downs Brook, a small but very cold fresh water stream that flows onto the East Branch of the Delaware. I will inherit the property when my father passes away, (he is 87). I am strongly opposed to fracking in the Delaware Basin. The future in terms of global warming is very uncertain, and I believe that we can take no risks with the precious resources of water that we now have. As the pollution from fracking is debilitating for habitats to say the least, the very idea that we should be burning more fossil fuels is wrongheaded until other options are fully explored. I believe we need to think of the generations to come after us, and strongly urge you to ban fracking in the Delaware River Basin. Water is too precious a resource to risk. I also refer you to the following points.

With kind regards,

Rachel Bacon

A 2017 study by researchers at the Northeast Climate Science Center and Climate System Research Center at U. Mass Amherst found that the Northeastern U.S. is the fastest-warming region in the lower 48 states, heating at a rate 50 percent faster than the global average. According to the Union of Concerned Scientists, "Records from the mid-twentieth century through 2000 show that the number of snow-covered days across the Northeast has decreased significantly." The shrinking snowpack and increased runoff will worsen as temperatures continue to rise. Further reducing our water supply by moving water out of the basin and exposing our remaining water to fracking waste contamination should not be permitted, especially when those practices support the fossil fuel production that is exacerbating warming in the first place.

Changes to stream water quality occur where gas drilling and related activities are located. For instance, a publication of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences found streams adjacent to gas

wells are negatively impacted by runoff and sedimentation (Total Suspended Solids), harming benthic life, fish and wildlife and causing streams to be eroded and destabilized. DRBC follows the state's stormwater rules where a project is located, leaving loopholes in current nonpoint source laws that allow fracking activities to escape strict oversight. This would be a recipe for disaster if fracking were to occur, which is why it must be banned in the Delaware River Watershed.

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,

Rachel Bacon