

1 two things. Thank you.

2 HEARING OFFICER:

3 Thank you, ma'am.

4 Ms. Gillette, please?

5 MS. GILLETTE:

6 Welcome to the North  
7 Pocono Mountains. My name is Debbie  
8 Gillette and I am the Executive  
9 Director of the Chamber of the North  
10 of Poconos. We are the chamber of  
11 commerce that represents businesses  
12 and organizations within Wayne and  
13 Pike Counties.

14 I speak on behalf of the  
15 Chamber's Board of Directors. I would  
16 like to be clear that the Chamber of  
17 the northern Poconos supports  
18 responsible economic development and  
19 the rights of private property owners  
20 to make their own decisions to utilize  
21 their land in accordance with local  
22 and state regulations.

23 The proposed regulations  
24 to permanently ban hydraulic  
25 fracturing within the Delaware River

1 Basin are based on the suggestion of  
2 risk and the qualities of the  
3 watershed. Drilling was allowed and  
4 has continued in the much larger  
5 27,486 square mile watershed of our  
6 neighbors in the Susquehanna River  
7 Basin.

1       water during natural gas exploration,  
2       fracturing and production is an  
3       example of responsible economic  
4       development.

5                   We need economic  
6       stimulus in the northern Pocono  
7       Mountains and here is why. We have  
8       the lowest per capita personal income  
9       in seven-county radius of northeastern  
10      Pennsylvania. This translates into  
11      our people having to hold multiple  
12      jobs in order to make ends meet. Our  
13      average weekly wage is \$723 and this  
14      is 67 percent of the state average of  
15      \$1,078.

16                  The income disparity is  
17       due to lack of diversity in our  
18       industry profile. We are very top  
19       heavy in low-wage industries and lack  
20       the traditional economic engines such  
21       as higher education and large  
22       corporations to turn this around. We  
23       need the jobs that will be created not  
24       just within the gas and oil industry,  
25       but jobs that will be created and

1 maintained within hospitality trades,  
2 finance and retail.

22 | HEARING OFFICER: