

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.

8 The actions of the SRBC
9 within Pennsylvania, tell us that
10 there is little or no risk with
11 hydraulic fracturing. If there is
12 substantial risk to the health of
13 people and the environment, then
14 Pennsylvania would not allow this
15 action to continue. The SRB
16 Commissioners are comfortable with
17 that decision because it is noted in
18 their 2016 annual report monitoring of
19 natural gas development from 2008 to
20 2013 revealed, and I quote, no
21 discernable impacts on the quality of
22 the basin's water resources, end
23 quote.

24 The fact that the SRBC
25 has maintained an increase quality of

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.

3 For generations Wayne
4 and Pike Counties have been good
5 stewards of our land. We have
6 maintained a high quality of water
7 within the Delaware River Basin and we
8 will continue to do this and be
9 conscious of our environment for
10 future generations.

11 Why don't the citizens
12 of Wayne and Pike Counties matter?
13 Are we only to be the recreational
14 playground for those who receive their
15 income elsewhere? We need responsible
16 economic growth, let us know so our
17 economic development efforts are not
18 in vain. And we may prepare future
19 generations who might otherwise expect
20 fair and equal economic opportunity in
21 Pennsylvania.

22 HEARING OFFICER:

23 Thank you. We will
24 resume in five to ten minutes, then
25 you.