

Ann Foster

I've lived in the Delaware River Basin for most of my 59 years and within a few miles of the Delaware River itself for a good part of them. I spent my last day of high school "cutting classes" and swimming with friends in it's waters just north of Easton, and today I kayak and Fly Fish both the river and its headwater streams with my grandchildren. But I remember a time when the Shad didn't run because of pollution in industrialized regions, and my youth was filled with radio and news clips about a dam at Tocks Island.

We have a national treasure here, one that brings billions of dollars of economic value to our area both in terms of recreation and tourism, water supply, and businesses and industries that rely upon it's clean waters for their very existence.

My drinking water, like many in the NE region, is provided by a ground well and the replenishment of it's aquifers by the waters from within the basin , while millions more in NYC and Philadelphia rely upon a plentiful and healthy supply of the basins waters for their very health and existence.

It's because of these reasons that I have grave concerns about the proposed ruling as it stands.

While I support a total and permanent ban of fracking within the basin, I also am in great opposition to water withdrawals for use in the very heavily water intensive fracking industry and the deposit of treated waste water back into the basin.

I live surrounded by headwater streams and already see some of them go dry during extended droughts in the summer and fall months. And I understand the disruption to watersheds and aquifers that can easily occur if water is withdrawn from one area and not deposited back into the same watershed. When your well goes dry along with your local creeks, you take notice.

I'm also concerned about proprietary chemicals and waste in discharged fracking water. I don't want to see our national treasure become like rivers in western PA, making headlines for radium deposits found in it's waters. We know what we know, but we don't know it all yet ... at least not enough for me to feel comfortable supporting these proposed regulations.

That's why I oppose these regulations as they stand, based upon the ambiguity of the water withdrawals and deposit of fracking wastewater. Thank you.