

My name is Fred Peckham and I am a riverfront land owner from Hancock, NY whose family has made a living depending on the river valley for its natural resources for over 160 years.

I come here today in defense of my property rights.

The new ban on hydraulic fracturing proposed by the DRBC seems to be nothing more than an unconstitutional attempt at controlling private property rights in the Upper Delaware river basin using the advice of special interest groups rather than science as a guide with no intention of providing just compensation to landowners for the taking.

It's been well documented by the SRBC of which several of the same members are represented in the DRBC that "remote water quality monitoring network has not detected discernible impacts on the quality of the Basin's water resources. In fact it has become cleaner as technological innovations have been advanced and waste water treatment methods have become more specialized with no confirmed stray gas cases in the state in the last two years.

The development area in the DRB will have a far smaller foot print than in the SRB with only a fraction of the size being considered for development. To date there have been just under 5000 wells completed in the SRB in the ten years since development started and just under 11,000 wells in the entire state of PA. When the DRBC moratorium was declared it was claimed by the DRBC and special interest groups that there would be 10,000s of wells drilled in the DRB which we knew then as we know now was a number used as a scare tactic to frighten the public.

The DRBC likes to say they protect the water for 15 million people but 9 million of those people get their water from the NYC water shed an area unaffected by DRBC rulemaking. That leaves 6 million people dependent on the Delaware and other down basin tributaries feeding into the Delaware for water usage, most unaffected by oil and gas development. How can members of the DRBC sit here and convince us it's OK for the SRB to develop its

resources with over 4 million people dependent on its water but not the DRB right next to them?

Considering the SRB has 100s of miles of special protection waters and has been monitoring water quality for a number of years now with no discerning affects and given the fact that in the past these differences have been used by the DRBC to justify the moratorium they are no longer a valid argument.

The DRBC has been taking money from these special interest groups and have also allowed them to sit on several DRBC committees even chairing one while these same groups bring law suites against DRBC, a clear and admitted conflict of interest by the DRBC, an issue which has yet to be resolved.

How can one even contemplate writing land use rules and regulations when the landowners are shut out of rule making process? The landowners of the upper basin have been and will always be stewards of their lands. Those sitting in Trenton know what economic effects these rules will have on the people and land owners of the Upper basin and it seems they don't care.

Maybe the DRBC should do what it was setup to do, allocate, monitor water usage and quality and stay out of the land use issues. That is for the states to decide.

These hearings are nothing more then a formality to the DRBC so they can say everyone had there chance to comment. The real test of these unjust rules and regulations has yet to come!

Unfortunately and I say this with deep regret, by the time justice is served it will be too late for many of the Upper Basin landowners, many who are multi generational stewards of their lands, resigning themselves to leave for greener pastures or face forced pastoral poverty under their new overlords the DRBC and their minions!

Today bans on energy development tomorrow farming, logging and stone quarrying?