

Emma Varcoe

Dear Members of the Delaware River Basin Commission:

My husband and I live in Susquehanna County (SRBC) on 6 acres. We own 360 acres of undeveloped land in Wayne County (DRBC).

A basic economic difference between the fore-mentioned counties are the tax rates. In comparing just the real estate taxes for 2017 and 2018, Susquehanna County has stayed the same. In Wayne County, there has been a 9% raise in just one year.

Montrose, county seat of Susquehanna, has added a new hospital, modernized the landmark jail, built a new library and added another restaurant - aided by influx of natural gas development.

Susquehanna County's use of water for HVHF seems to be economical and safe. The DRBC could use their guidelines.

A determining factor of aquatic life is found in the fish that populate our many streams and lakes. Trout especially can not survive in polluted water. Despite the presence of gas drilling in the SRBC, we still have abundant fresh water fishing.

Some see a drilling site as an evil against conservation. We can see an undeveloped site within a half mile of our house. We view this site and others across the county as saving the environment. We visualize that there will be no more developments that will require septic systems, more wells, more asphalt for driveways and parking lots, and more air pollution. Wildlife will still be able to roam freely across the unfenced vegetation. Because Wayne County has lost many of the family farms, developments have forever changed the rural landscape.

Since the SRBC and the DRBC have several members on both boards, it seems that the resources are not equally developed. Land rights in both counties should be evenly represented.

The DRBC assumes that all landowners will sign a drilling lease. Wayne County landowners should have the right to make their own decision. The DRBC should insure that the rules and regulations imposed in the SRBC are followed to insure water quality.

We request that the fracking ban in Wayne County be removed.

Sincerely,

John and Emma Varcoe