

# Stephen Sautner

Dear DRBC,

As a rigorous user of the Delaware River Watershed in the form of fishing, swimming, canoeing, and kayaking in the Basin, not to mention owning 14 acres in Hancock, New York in the headwaters of the main stem Delaware, I am strongly against any proposed activities having to do with hydraulic fracturing (fracking) in this region for the following reasons:

- 1.) Water withdrawn for fracking will be laced with pollutants (i.e. contaminated). This is incompatible with other water uses in the watershed.
- 2.) Much of the water will be entombed beneath the surface in gas wells NEVER TO BE PART OF THE HYDROLOGICAL CYCLE AGAIN. In this time of increasingly erratic weather patterns, including increased droughts, it is foolish and dangerous to allow this precious resource to be forever removed from the watershed.
- 3.) How will water that does come back to the surface from fracking be disposed of properly? Particularly when it is laced with contaminants, salts and sometimes radioactivity. To allow any discharge of fracking water – whether "treated" or otherwise to enter the Delaware watershed – the source of drinking water to so many, and the lifeblood to wildlife and crucial ecosystems would be a travesty.
- 4.) No fracking fluids or waste should be allowed to be transported within the watershed. The risk of an accident is too great. There are trout streams in Pennsylvania still contaminated due to chemical spills from decades earlier, and others waterways destroyed by acid mine drainage from the 19th century.
- 5.) Turning otherwise quiet areas into water withdrawal sites will be disruptive to people in rural communities, not to mention wildlife. The increase in truck traffic, and associated noise, pollution, and traffic again makes this an incompatible activity.

In conclusion, I urge that the DRBC must provide the protections the Basin deserves and vote in favor of a full ban on fracking, water extraction, and fracking waste processing.

Sincerely,

Stephen, Mimi, and Finn Sautner