

1 Commissioners.

2 With all of that, I
3 thank you for your patience through
4 that and now I'm going to go through
5 the list of registered speakers.

6 All right?

7 The first three people
8 would be --- despite what just
9 happened there I misplaced things
10 here. The first three speakers will
11 be the Honorable Jonathan Fritz, and
12 then Jane Varcoe, and then Kathleen
13 Nolan. Okay. Representative Fritz,
14 please?

15 MR. FRITZ:

16 Thank you, Your Honor.
17 Good evening. Again, I'm Jonathan
18 Fritz, State Representative for the
19 111th District comprising Susquehanna
20 and Wayne Counties.

21 With that mentioned, one
22 of my counties is in the Susquehanna
23 River Basin and one is in the Delaware
24 River Basin, and what a contrast that
25 is.

1 When I tested --- when I
2 testified in front of the DRBC seven
3 plus years ago, I mentioned that I
4 came from a family of water mill
5 drillers.

6 Our purpose was to drill
7 below the earth's surface to access an
8 essential to life natural resource,
9 that being water. I view natural gas
10 the very same way, an essential to
11 life natural resource, one that is
12 long harvest --- one that has been
13 long harvested in Pennsylvania with
14 10,000-plus wells outside of the
15 Delaware River Basin.

16 You see, Wayne County
17 had been stuck at a red light during
18 that seven plus year stretch of time.
19 When you've heard DEP or the DRBC, we
20 were respectfully told and repeatedly
21 told there is forward progress, but
22 the parties aren't there yet.

23 We were led to believe
24 that eventually the natural gas
25 development that was benefiting

1 landowners, businesses and consumers
2 everywhere else in the state, would be
3 realized here. But here's what has
4 happened in those seven plus years
5 since:

6 Estofield pulled out of
7 Wayne County, the force majeure.
8 Million of dollars that had been
9 banked on simply evaporated. Firms
10 have gone out of business, drastically
11 changing our landscape. Wayne County
12 now has less than 60 dairy farms.
13 Wayne County's population has
14 declined. Wayne County receives
15 approximately \$100,000 per year in Act
16 13 monies. That's versus \$8 million
17 in Susquehanna County.

18 Folks, \$8 million in a
19 rural county, that translates into
20 real tax relief. That relates to real
21 and drastic improvement of services
22 and programs and infrastructure
23 upgrades.

24 As well, we've held a
25 hearing right here in this very place

1 where the resounding message was
2 support of natural gas development.

3 As well, the Susquehanna
4 River Basin has now had ten years to
5 be able to look back and study and
6 analyze the drilling activity in the
7 Susquehanna River Basin. And here's
8 the findings. No discernable impacts
9 on groundwater in the Susquehanna
10 River Basin.

11 And lastly, but not
12 least, the Pennsylvania House of
13 Representatives soundly passed house
14 resolution 515, a resolution urging
15 the DRBC to cease for de-escalation of
16 a permanent ban.

17 I want to make it
18 abundantly clear that Wayne County
19 landowners feel deceived and misled.
20 The DRBC has essentially robbed them
21 --- robbed them of their property
22 rights. And in my opinion, the DRBC
23 is an example of an agency gone rogue.

24 Let me drive it home
25 with this. The DRBC has caused real