

WILLIAM HEFFNER

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to support the DRBC's proposal to protect our natural resources by prohibiting hydraulic fracturing in the Delaware River Basin. I urge you, however, to strengthen regulations that would let drillers withdraw millions of gallons from our waters and send fracking wastewater here for treatment.

As an angler, I'm concerned about the potential impacts of this activity on a place that is home to some of the best trout fishing in the region.

I am pleased to see that these measures will protect our streams -- both today and for future generations. But I am concerned about water withdrawals for drilling elsewhere. This activity could have major impacts on our trout habitat. The regulations do not spell out how our streams would be protected from the low flows and high temperatures that could result if drillers are allowed to tap them for hydraulic fracturing.

Likewise, if treatment of fracking wastewater is permitted here, the commission should set water quality standards for all chemicals that could be present, so we are assured of proper treatment.

Finally, I'm very concerned about the commission's ability to enforce these regulations, and urge you to put in place sound inspection and monitoring protocols.

I appreciate the commission's thorough study of this issue and thank you for considering my comments. With some tightening, these measures will go a long way toward protecting trout habitat and clean water in the Delaware.

Sincerely,
William Heffner