

John Mueller

I support the Commission's proposal to prohibit hydraulic fracturing in the Delaware River Basin. The proposed measures will help protect clean water and trout habitat in the basin.

I live in upstate New York and have fished many of the waters of the Delaware River Basin for more than 30 years. They are a treasured natural resource and provide some of the best trout fishing anywhere.

I am concerned however, about the potential for water withdrawals in the basin for hydraulic fracturing outside the basin. This could have major impacts on trout habitat. The proposed regulations do not address how the waters of the basin would be protected from low flows and high temperatures that could result if drillers were permitted to tap them for their use. Therefore, I am opposed to permitting such withdrawals.

I am also concerned that treatment of fracking wastewater could be permitted in the basin. Even if the Commission sets water quality standards for all of the chemicals that could be present, I am concerned that proper treatment of wastewater would not be assured and that unintended releases of untreated wastewater could occur. Therefore, I am opposed to permitting treatment of fracking wastewater in the basin.

Finally I urge the Commission to implement sound inspection and monitoring protocols to enforce the proposed regulations.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.