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2/22/18 Hydraulic fracturing and its byproducts are a predictable, preventable ecological disaster already adversely affecting many areas of the United States. Fracking and associated activities pollute the environment, destroy natural resources and wildlife habitats, and wreak economic havoc on taxpayers who more often than not, are left to pay for the futile efforts to clean up the mess left behind. History is replete with examples of the devastating aftereffects of such pollution disasters as the dumping of PCBs in the Hudson River (30+ decades in "clean up" and still not done), the chemical poisoning of Love Canal, NY (Hooker Chemical Company, massive Superfund cleanup site listed Sept. 1984-September 2004 and still not safe or remediated), the horrific oil spills in Prince William Sound (Exxon, 3/24/89, 10.8 million gallons of crude oil, declared one of the most devastating, human-caused environmental disasters in recorded history) and British Petroleum's Deep Water Horizon, (April 20, 2010, 210 million gallons and still leaking.) There have been numerous environmental disasters wherever fracking activity has been allowed, in neighboring Pennsylvania and other states across the Nation. In all of these areas the chemical companies in charge have sworn there was no danger to human or animal life, and if problems should occur they would be cleaned up and the areas restored immediately.

If we have learned anything from these false assurances it is that there is no undo button for pollution. Once the air, land and ground water are poisoned, either by accident, idiocy or design, there is no way to reverse it. The only way to prevent pollution is to stop it before it happens. Therefore I call on the DRBC to permanently ban any fracking or other pollution related activities in or around the Delaware River Basin. Thank you for doing your job to protect the river, the environment, and the people and animals who depend on clean air, water and land to live. Star Hesse