

1 Thank you.

2 HEARING OFFICER:

3 Thomas Church is on
4 deck, and the next speaker would
5 be --- let's see if I have this right.
6 Jim Rapp? Jim Rapp?

7 Not here? Okay.

8 Janice Rapp, is she
9 here? Not here? All right.

10 Thomas Church? Okay.

11 Mr. Church is next and
12 then on deck would be Ken Maher and
13 Susan Sullivan. Okay.

14 Mr. Church, please when
15 you're ready.

16 MR. CHURCH:

17 Thank you.

18 HEARING OFFICER:

19 Thank you, sir.

20 MR. CHURCH:

21 I want to thank you for
22 the chance to comment. I would submit
23 --- my name is Tom Church and I live
24 along the Delaware above Easton,
25 Pennsylvania. And I would submit that

1 corporations and landowners like me
2 are being paid for extracting and
3 selling to the common wealth of the
4 many. This is a taking.

5 FERC allows the taking
6 of private property to transport this
7 taking to market. And the theft of
8 clean air and clean water is a type of
9 taking. Industry and FERC pressure is
10 enormous. I firmly believe that the
11 DRBC's previous protections have
12 complied with the PA Constitution's
13 protections for cleaner air and purer
14 water for millions of people.

15 When I was a young man
16 in rural West Virginia, I leased my
17 property for gas and oil drilling and
18 four wells were drilled and fracked on
19 my property. Here are some of the
20 results of that decision, which I made
21 when I was younger.

22 When I first moved
23 there, I could comfortable drink the
24 water from the creek, I lost that.
25 The road building, the site building,

1 the tank battery degraded the
2 landscape and caused erosion. During
3 fracturing, charts on wells a half a
4 mile away showed that contrary to
5 industry statements, there is
6 migration between formations
7 underground.

8 The charts would spike
9 while the other wells were being
10 fracked a mile away. A number of
11 times I woke to, or came home to,
12 either a valley filled with gas or an
13 oily yellow film on my field. Within
14 ten years, the two wells that did
15 produce, initially slowed to a level
16 where producers sold them to smaller
17 companies.

18 And the other two wells
19 were donated to an inexperienced
20 charity to avoid the responsibility of
21 taking care of them. The industry
22 used different types of meters to
23 determine what they would pay in
24 royalties and another to ensure that
25 they got full payment from who they

1 were selling it to.

2 As a West Virginia
3 licensed meter and regulator tester
4 and gas utility worker, I understood
5 much more than the typical landowner
6 about these practices.

7 Horizontal drilling and
8 water based fracking has changed the
9 landscape. I believe this ban is
10 necessary to protect our watershed. I
11 also believe that water withdrawal for
12 fracking and storing, treating and
13 disposal of produced water should be
14 banned as well. Thank you.

15 HEARING OFFICER:

16 I want to say something
17 just for a moment here, this will be
18 very quick. I'm a little bit
19 concerned about our court reporter
20 here. She needs a little bit of a
21 break, and what I'm going to do is
22 finish the list of the people who
23 signed up in advance. We'll take just
24 a five- to ten-minute break after that
25 for a stretch break, especially for