

# Allan Rubin

DRBC COMMENT 3-16-2018

Dear Members of the Delaware River Basin Commission

Throughout the years since 2008 I became more and more aware of the risks associated with fracking. When the Commission instituted the original moratorium I was impressed with your sense of responsibility and willingness to embrace caution in the face of so much pressure to follow business as usual. You did not err on that side. You chose the correct path and I and millions of citizens are in your debt. It is time now to remain committed to that proper course and close off any detours down perilous routes.

You are undoubtedly overwhelmed with expert testimony about those dangers and concerns. Perhaps you have received fewer comments about the benefits of not permitting fracking. Let me say what not permitting fracking meant to me. My town government of Cohecton, NY was not open to our pleas to institute a local moratorium on fracking. Even after we gathered six hundred signatures, out of two thousand residents, on a petition requesting a moratorium, the town board ignored our demand in favor of the interests of a few large land owners who were eager to make a quick windfall, regardless of the health of the community. We ran two pro-moratorium candidates for the board but were only able to elect one, maintaining a fracking biased board. At that point I was paralyzed with fear of fracking. I was at the point of considering my option to sell my home and property and remove myself from what I had learned would be a toxic environment if fracking was permitted in my town. Then Governor Cuomo banned fracking in New York State. When I heard the news I shed tears of joy and relief. My home and my health would be safe from assault of poisonous air and water. I renewed suspended renovations on my buildings, providing work for local contractors. Most importantly I leased a rooftop solar panel array to provide all my electric power needs, an investment I would not have risked without the ban.

If the DRBC permanently bans fracking and its waste products from the Basin, please consider the compound economic benefits of numerous families relieved of paralyzing fear and confident enough to invest in the future of their communities. As for water withdrawals, any support for the process of gas extraction at this time simply prolongs the slow demise of a defunct energy source whose persistence delays the full implementation of its replacements, such as wind, solar and geothermal. Please take the final step to eliminate the threat of outmoded natural gas from our lives so we can all breathe free in the fresh wind and luxuriate in the warmth and light of the sun.