

1 if we don't reach you in the people  
2 that signed up today, you're welcome  
3 to come back this evening and we  
4 really expect that we'll be able to  
5 get to you. But we're going to try to  
6 get everybody in here this afternoon.  
7 All right.

8 This is Abbey Jones who  
9 did signed up previously. And Ms.  
10 Jones, you have three minutes. All  
11 right?

12 Ms. Jones.

13 MS. JONES:

14 Thank you. My name is  
15 Abigail Jones and I'm a staff attorney  
16 at Penn Future. Again, we thank you  
17 for holding these public hearings and  
18 the comments I make today are in  
19 addition to the written comments that  
20 will be submitted by the end of the  
21 hearing.

22 In addition to all of  
23 the documented environmental and human  
24 health impacts from fracking we've  
25 heard about today, the community

1 impacts are astounding and must not be  
2 overlooked. We've heard about  
3 increased traffic and road damage, air  
4 and noise pollution, light pollution.  
5 All of these things happen 24/7, and  
6 all of these things run directly  
7 counter to our community values in  
8 northeast Pennsylvania.

9 We understand that there  
10 are some who believe that the economic  
11 opportunities of a few should trump  
12 the protection of the environment that  
13 we all share in the long-term health  
14 of our region. But we respectfully  
15 disagree. Our children and  
16 grandchildren do not deserve the toxic  
17 landscape that fracking leaves behind.

18 Instead, we need to  
19 protect the environment that supports  
20 the outdoor economy that has drawn  
21 people to the area for over a century.  
22 The long-term residents and short-term  
23 visitors value the upper Delaware  
24 River Basin for its pristine  
25 headwaters, exceptional trout fishing,

1 and unaltered environmental resources.

2 In the Delaware River  
3 Basin alone, we have a thriving  
4 recreational economy that represents  
5 hundreds of jobs and over \$70 million  
6 annually. Fishing alone accounts for  
7 \$1 to \$3 million of the economic  
8 benefits in the region.

9 We literally cannot  
10 afford to allow fracking to jeopardize  
11 the clean water that drives economic  
12 activity, including tourism,  
13 manufacturing, agriculture and small  
14 businesses. The harms from fracking  
15 are simply too great to allow in the  
16 Delaware River Watershed. The DRBC  
17 has both the authority and the duty to  
18 protect the Delaware River from the  
19 harms of fracking.

20 Penn Future urges the  
21 DRBC to be the steward of the Delaware  
22 and approve the proposed ban on  
23 fracking. Thank you.

24 HEARING OFFICER:

25 Thank you, ma'am. Ms.