

I'm speaking here today in support of the ban on oil fracking in the basin as an appropriate, and as we see today, clearly difficult risk benefit analysis that the DRBC has to engage in.

I'm a property owner from Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania. I live on the banks of Michael Creek, which leads into the Broadhead, which leads into the Delaware. I'm an active water sports person. I'm a retired college professor. And I'm an attorney from New York State. I spent ten years representing the City of Ithaca in a lot of issues similar to those we're hearing about today.

I've been someone who lived across the street from a proposed dump, and so I have powerful feelings for the people who are concerned about what this means for their own property. I have a very extended family in both New York and Pennsylvania. We've been on the Delaware for a very long time.

And what I wanted to talk about today were the risk issues involved here, and

as several speakers have already mentioned --

The risk issues that I have incurred experience in my own life. But it is that I grew up on the Hudson River. I was born actually as the General Electric Plants started to put PCBs into the river without a permit in the days before permitting was required. It was not illegal for them to put cancer-causing PCB's in the river.

The cleanup process is still ongoing. One of my brothers runs a rowing club on the river. They just scooped up all the mud from there two summers ago and it's costing billions. So there's a risk if we're wrong about the safety of fracking.

The other experience, my dissertation involves a public water system where E. coli from farm animals got into the public water system and killed seven people, sent thousands to the hospital, in a system where people thought what they were doing was right and safe.

It was an, oops, situation. It was, you know, Homer Simpson's running a plant

kind of situation. And not that there was any bad will on anybody's part, it was a mistake that caused deaths and thousands and thousands or irreparable harm to people.

And the third one is, while I was a city attorney in Ithaca, a fish kill. We had them from our water plant. We had a great system of regulations from DEP, we had well-maintained water plant, and something got stuck. Chlorine poured into the edges around the plant and killed thousands of fish and destroyed the environment and stream for years. We got fined.

But that didn't help what happened to the environment. What I urge is the precautionary principal, because unless we know what's really safe, we can't do this to future generations and ourselves. Thank you.