

1 MR. O'MALLEY:

2 Are we at the very end?

3 HEARING OFFICER?

4 All right, sir. You look familiar.

5 MR. O'MALLEY:

6 Yes. Yes.

7 HEARING OFFICER:

8 Can you state your name, please?

9 MR. O'MALLEY:

10 Doug O'Malley. I'm Director of
11 Environment New Jersey. I welcome the opportunity to
12 testify again. And also, I want to thank the DRBC for
13 not only holding this hearing in Philadelphia, and
14 obviously the hearing previously in Waymark. But
15 extending the comment period and allowing a hearing in
16 Shanksville and a tele-puter. It is paramount that
17 DRBC allow the most possible public comment. And I
18 would advocate for a public verification to ensure that
19 people that are signing petitions that are being
20 submitted, that they be counted not only as one
21 comment. But that petition, all those names of people
22 that signed petition, these are pro-con, be counted
23 individually supporting or opposing regulations. And
24 that's an equivocal component of this. And the reason
25 is quite simple. This is the most important issue that

1 DRBC has wrestled with in its history. It's obviously
2 been incredibly contentious over the course of the last
3 decade. We at the Environment of New Jersey, obviously
4 support a complete ban on fracking, as well as the
5 complete ban of fracking waste water, and water
6 withdrawals for fracking.

7 And I wanted to get a chance to talk very
8 briefly about why this is so critical. In the
9 Trump-era, we are not only seeing rollbacks on a
10 federal level, but in '05 because of the Halliburton
11 loophole as part of 2005 Energy Policy Act, the
12 fracking industry is exempt from a whole host of our
13 land mark environmental laws. And currently, the
14 industry, you know, the EPA doesn't even know what the
15 accuracy of a list chemicals that are found in fracking
16 fluid and waste water.

17 That is why it's so paramount,
18 specifically that there's an absolute ban on fracking
19 waste water. We heard earlier from the woman who grew
20 up close to the Blackjack in the Allegheny River
21 watershed. And she referred to the Duke University
22 study. And this is paramount for the DRBC to look at
23 because this is the study that occurred over the course
24 of the last five years. Five years ago, they looked at
25 the sediment. They found levels of radium 226. And

1 that was 200 times over health standards directly next
2 to the out haul hitch from waste water. And just a few
3 days ago, they released an update to the study.
4 Finding that the levels of radium in the sediment was
5 more that 650 times. That should go to a federally
6 designated radioactive waste disposal site. And
7 instead, it's stuck in that watershed and in that water
8 bed.

9 And the critical notion here is that this
10 is not going to go away. Radium 226 is a lifespan,
11 half-life of 1,600 years. And if we're thinking about
12 the future of the Delaware River basin, we need to
13 insure that we're not only discouraging fracking waste
14 water, but we're banning it. We're banning injection
15 level. We're banning the ability to have waste water
16 disposal pits. Because 100 years ago, there was no
17 DRCB. And we had an industry here in the watershed and
18 broadly across Pennsylvania that looked to extract
19 fossil fuels from the ground. The coal industry has
20 left a legacy of pollution that we're still struggling
21 with. 100 years from now, please, let's not have the
22 Delaware River Basin struggle with the legacy of
23 fracking. Thank you.

24 HEARING OFFICER:

25 Is there anybody else that would like to