

Hi, I'm Wes Gillingham, the Associate Director for Catskill Mountain Keeper. Thank you for this opportunity to testify at this hearing.

First, I want to congratulate and support the DRBC staff and the Commissioners who have voted to protect and preserve the basin.

In today's world, having a government agency make a decision based on science and facts, it's a pleasure to watch. The majority of the voices who live here and work here speak against drilling in this basin. And we speak here hoping you will listen, instead of listening, to the corporate interests who want to line their pockets.

Line their pockets by using benzene, tri-ethyl benzene, di-ethyl benzene, propylene oxide, bromide --- I could keep going on and on and use all of my time, but I won't. I will read the findings --- the major findings from the hydraulic fracturing for shale gas development, a public health review by the New York State Department of health.

It reads, the major findings,

air impacts that could affect respiratory health due to increased levels of particulate matter, diesel exhaust, and volatile organic chemicals, climate change impacts due to methane and other volatile organic chemicals released in the atmosphere.

Drinking water impacts on the underground migration methane and fracking chemicals associated with faulty well construction. I'm going to stop reading there and address what some other speaker said which is ---.

HEARING OFFICER:

The court reporter thanks you for stopping. Ten more seconds.

MR. GILLINGHAM:

Someone else said that it was a mistake to ban fracking in this basin because it was being pushed by special interest groupies. Yes, this is a special interest to protect our water, yes, this is a special interest to protect the longest free-flowing river in the eastern half of the United States, yes, this is a special interest to

protect climate stability, yes, this is a special interest for building a sustainable future for the Delaware River Basin. Thank you very much.