

Stephanie Herron

Dear DRBC Commissioners,

Thank you for instructing DRBC staff to draft regulations that include a ban on high volume hydraulic fracturing or "fracking" in our watershed, and for this opportunity to comment on the draft regulations. I am very much in support of the ban on drilling in our Delaware River Basin. However, the draft regulations do not go far enough. For the regulations to be fully protective we need comprehensive a ban on all fracking-related activities, including the withdraw of water from the Delaware to be used in the process of fracking elsewhere and the storage, processing and disposal of fracking wastewater.

We need to base our decision making on sound science and health data. Just as the evidence shows that fracking cannot be done safely, it also shows that fracking wastewater can be highly toxic. Traditional water treatment plants are not meant to treat these carcinogenic chemicals used in fracking fluid or the potentially radioactive materials that come back up from deep underground with fracking water. Many of these compounds are nearly impossible to remove. Once water is contaminated it is ruined forever. Banning drilling in our Basin is wonderful, and it's overdue in my opinion. But banning drilling but leaving the door open to potential fracking wastewater disposal simply makes no sense. At the end of the day if I can't trust the water that comes out of my tap it doesn't matter if it was contaminated by drilling or by wastewater--I still can't drink it.

Being a Delawarean, I am particularly concerned about the quantity and quality of water in the Delaware River watershed. We are on the receiving end of the water that flows down the amazing Delaware River. We rely deeply on there being enough clean, safe water for us to drink, cook, bathe and recreate. It is critical to our health, but it's also critical to our economy. In Delaware clean water is critical to sectors that contribute up to \$7 Billion dollars in annual economic activity--including our state's largest and fourth largest industries (agriculture & tourism). Any activity upstream from us that diminish water volume or quality could have very grave consequences for Delawareans.

Abundant clean, safe water is a human right. We need to be moving away energy sources that contaminate our water and air. It's 2018 and we have the technology to generate our electricity and heat our homes cleanly and safely. We don't need to be scraping the "bottom of the barrel" for extreme energy sources like fracked oil and gas. The risks of allowing any fracking related activities in our watershed far outweigh the reward.

You have been instilled with the power to oversee water quantity and quality for our communities. Nothing is more important to our health and quality of life than abundant clean water. Me, my family and my community are counting on you to protect us.