

# Greg Vitali

Greg Vitali  
State Representative, District 166  
Pennsylvania House of Representatives

13 November, 2017

Dear Governor Wolf, Governor Cuomo, Governor Carney, Governor Christie, and members of the Army Corps of Engineers,

I am writing to request that the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) enact a complete and permanent ban on natural gas development and hydraulic fracturing and all related activities (including drilling, fracking, wastewater processing, and discharges from and water withdrawals for drilling and fracking operations) throughout the Basin.

As the agency formed to manage the water resources of the Delaware River Watershed, the Commission members - the Governors of Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, and Delaware and the federal government - are responsible for the protection of shared waters that provide over 1.5 million people with drinking water, including Philadelphia and New York City. The DRBC is mandated to establish standards, plans, rules and regulations, and to control, prevent and abate pollution from activities that may have a substantial effect on the water resources of the Basin. Through these powers, the DRBC works to protect public health and preserve basin waters to meet "present and future needs." I applaud and support the DRBC's mission, which equally protects all states in the Delaware River watershed, as well as those who live, work and recreate here presently and in the future.

There is significant evidence that natural gas development, and its related operations, has substantial adverse effects on public health, property interests, agriculture, and on our air, water, and land. The natural gas industry has received unprecedented exemptions from our nation's most important environmental and public health laws, including the Safe Drinking Water Act, Clean Air Act, and the Clean Water Act. There is further evidence that increased use of natural gas and the emission of both carbon dioxide and methane that results from natural gas development will contribute significantly to climate change and have irreversible effects on our planet's atmosphere.

The DRBC currently prohibits permitting for natural gas extraction projects in the Delaware River Basin. The Commissioners enacted a drilling moratorium by Resolution in May 2010. In taking this action, DRBC Executive Director Carol Collier considered and determined that as a result of water withdrawals, wastewater disposal, and other activities, natural gas extraction projects in shale formations may individually or cumulatively affect the water quality of Special Protection Waters by altering their physical, biological, chemical, or hydrological characteristics. The current de facto moratorium on gas drilling, fracking, and associated activities includes wastewater discharges and water withdrawals. DRBC permits for wastewater discharges since 2010 have been conditioned on the prohibition of fracking wastewater to prevent degradation.

I highly value and enjoy the Wild and Scenic Delaware River and its outstanding recreational resources. The entire drainage area that flows to the nontidal Delaware River is designated as Special Protection Waters and is the longest stretch of anti-degradation waters in the United States. This prized natural asset provides important economic benefit to all four states whose tributaries

flow to the Delaware River.

The New York Department of Health concluded that the overall weight of the evidence demonstrated the likelihood of the occurrence of adverse health outcomes and environmental impacts from fracking could not be prevented. After exhaustive study, the State of New York prohibited fracking, basing their conclusion on environmental and public health analyses.

I believe the time has come to turn the DRBC's current de facto moratorium into a permanent ban on gas drilling and fracking and its related activities throughout the Delaware River Watershed. I oppose the storage, treatment, disposal and/or discharge of fracking wastewater within the Basin and the withdrawal of water from the Basin for fracking. I support a complete and permanent ban throughout the Basin and respectfully request that the Commissioners of the DRBC enact this ban now.

Sincerely,

Greg Vitali

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**House of Representatives**  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

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