

To the Delaware River Basin Commission,

My name is Anneke Walsh and I have grown up my whole life along the Delaware River and in its watershed. As a young child my friends and I would swim and play in the water for hours. To this day I spend many of my summers kayaking down the river with friends and family and enjoying all the beauty this river has to offer.

To many this river is a place of enjoyment, but to millions it also provides the necessary drinking water and natural life for their very survival. There are around 17 million people from four different states who rely on this watershed for safe drinking water. Not to mention since the Delaware River was designated as a National Wild and Scenic River by Congress, it has brought great economic benefit to all four states. And as I'm sure you are well aware, this was the very river that George Washington crossed during the Revolutionary War. A huge and significant part of American history is attached to the Delaware River. Allowing hydraulic fracturing and all the other processes that go along with this industry will only destroy the Delaware River and the lives of those around it.

Even the state of New York has banned fracking because of all the research showing the severe health risks the industry brings along with it. There are hundreds of documented cases of people developing asthma, severe headaches and sudden nosebleeds, sudden animal deaths, and of course unsafe drinking water conditions. You have a duty to maintain the pristine quality of water provided by the Delaware River. If fracking were to occur within the watershed, you will literally be poisoning and destroying the lives of the 17 million people residing in the watershed. Your job is to protect the watershed and the beauty within it, not support big business.

If you wanna speak to the fact of "oh this industry provides jobs and it's a bridge to clean energy", well both those points are completely false. First off, fracking wells last only around 20 years before the gas is completely used up. So you will not be doing the watershed a economic service as the jobs simply aren't stable. And the argument of natural gas being a bridge fuel is simply and obviously untrue. Natural gas is primarily made up of methane which warms our atmosphere much faster than carbon. If you wanna support green energy, then focus on bringing solar panels to our states.

But truthfully, if you allow fracking in the Delaware Watershed, you will be robbing current and future generations of the beauty provided by this river for so many years. Young children will never be able to see blue herons, swim in the cool waters, watch egrets land in the marches, learn about the unique sturgeon living in the Delaware. The beauty of the Delaware will only be something they can read about in history books and scientific journals, not something they will ever see with their own eyes. It is your responsibility to keep this river beautiful and pristine for them. Do not leave my generation and future generations to clean up the mess you will create if you allow fracking in the Delaware River Watershed. Protect our river, protect my future.

Thank you,

Anneke Walsh