

1 protect those who are need the
2 regulation from doing the wrong
3 thing.

4 It would be wrong to
5 permit, have the wastes from
6 fracking to go into the
7 Delaware River. They are
8 wastes that are untreatable.
9 Because they are untreatable,
10 it has been the tendency for
11 these fracking companies to
12 dispose of them in streams and
13 rivers, thereby polluting our
14 streams and rivers, from which
15 our wildlife survives, from
16 which we fish, et cetera.

17 So this is my one
18 recommendation. Please don't
19 permit that. It's an
20 invitation for all kinds of
21 hell to happen. Thank you.

22 HEARING OFFICER:

23 Megan DeSmedt.

24 MS. DESMEDT:

25 Good afternoon. And

1 thank you for the time to speak
2 here today. My name is Megan
3 DeSmedt. And I'm the clean
4 water director with Environment
5 America. We are a citizen
6 based environmental advocacy
7 group with presence in states
8 across the country.

9 And I'm here today in
10 particular to represent our 1.5
11 million members, supporters,
12 and activists across the
13 country including almost
14 300,000 here in the Delaware
15 River Basin.

16 And also organizations
17 --- our state organizations,
18 Penn Environment, Environment
19 New Jersey, and Environment New
20 York. And I'm also here as a
21 resident.

22 I live with my family in
23 South Philly just a couple
24 miles away.

25 So today I'm here to

1 deliver a message from our
2 supporters and from myself. We
3 applaud your proposal to ban
4 fracking of the Delaware River
5 Basin and protect drinking
6 water for over 15 million
7 people, as well as the habitat
8 for countless wildlife.

9 And the special places
10 that we like to go hiking,
11 fishing, swimming, and boating,
12 I can't wait for warmer weather
13 and get out with my family. So
14 we can get out and enjoy some
15 of the precious life, the
16 wildlife refuge, River Creek,
17 the places that people all
18 across the watershed love to
19 enjoy.

20 And I'm very pleased to
21 see that the DRBC and the
22 governors of some of the basin
23 states moved to ban fracking,
24 recognizing that the public is
25 demanding protection for our

1 health, our environment, and
2 the drinking water for over 15
3 million people.

4 Here in Pennsylvania,
5 we've had 65 drilling companies
6 that have committed more than
7 6,200 violations of
8 Pennsylvania's environmental
9 laws. And there's a growing
10 mountain of evidence that's in
11 reference today, that shows
12 that fracking threatens our
13 air, our water, our land, and
14 our health. And considering
15 the gas industry's track record
16 of pollution in Pennsylvania,
17 to ban is absolutely the right
18 move.

19 While we support the
20 DRBC's move to prohibit
21 fracking across the watershed,
22 we also call on the DRBC to
23 strengthen the proposal to
24 ensure that our watershed is
25 protected from the dangers

1 inherent in all the activities
2 related to fracking.

3 So the disposal,
4 storage, treatment, or
5 discharge of fracking
6 wastewater as well as water
7 withdrawn from the basin for
8 fracking or really any purpose.
9 If water is being taken out of
10 the basin, it doesn't really
11 matter what they're going to do
12 in terms of impacts that are
13 seen.

14 These activities pose a
15 very serious threat to water
16 quality and the health of the
17 basin and must not be allowed.
18 And we are looking forward to
19 working with you to strengthen
20 the proposal as the process
21 moves ahead.

22 Since efforts to allow
23 fracking in the Delaware River
24 watershed were first broached
25 nearly ten years ago, our

1 organizations have played a key
2 role in highlighting both the
3 risks of fracking, and the
4 public support contributions
5 from its residents to protect
6 the basin from this harmful
7 activities.

8 And given the harm
9 caused by fracking and the risk
10 it poses for our environment
11 and health, it's not surprising
12 that tens of thousands of
13 people have wastewater
14 opposition discussions in the
15 past. And we want to see that
16 continue, vigorous public
17 engagement moving forward. So
18 thank you.

19 HEARING OFFICER:

20 Okay. Thank you. Alex
21 Cupo. Alex Cupo? Okay. Thank
22 you. Okay. So would you start
23 by saying your name, please?

24 MR. CUPO:

25 Alexander Cupo.