

Thomas Richards

Dear Commission,

I write to oppose the Commission's proposal that effectively bans natural gas development in the Delaware River Basin region.

Our nation's public policies---at all levels of government---must be based on evidence, science, and necessity. A vocal minority of activists should not be able to block nationally vital energy development because of their own false fears.

The evidence is clear that hydraulic fracturing is safe and effective. Using these techniques, the U.S. has become the largest producer of oil and natural gas in the world. New levels of American energy development helped our nation recover from recession. In addition, our energy security is much stronger than when we relied on overseas fuel suppliers.

Increased supplies of domestic natural gas have helped keep heating and electricity affordable. Low energy prices also spur business growth and job creation. The DRBC rule, however, would set a bad precedent for limiting U.S. energy development and could result in higher consumer and commercial energy costs nationwide if similar bans take effect.

Please also consider the fact that increased natural gas access in the U.S. has helped lower our nation's carbon emissions. We lead all industrialized nations in carbon reduction---because of natural gas made available by hydraulic fracturing.

The DRBC's proposed rule would take our nation in the wrong direction. Recognizing the strong safety record of energy development, the federal government has rightly begun to limit unnecessary regulations. The DBRC should follow this lead, not impose new, unneeded restrictions.

I request that the Commission withdraw its new draft rule and revise to support, not impede, American energy development. Thank you for including my views in your review of this issue.

Sincerely,
Thomas Richards
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