

1 Thank you, sir. Is Hilary Baum here?
2 Ma'am, could you move forward please?

3 MS. BAUM:

4 Hi. My name is Hilary Baum. I'm a
5 resident of New York. And have enjoyed and rely on the
6 the benefits of the Catskill Delaware water shed for
7 most of my life. I'm here representing the New York
8 Sustainable Business Council. We are the New York
9 State affiliate of the American Sustainable Business
10 Council. An organization of more than 250,000
11 independent business.

12 NYSBC successfully localized businesses
13 statewide to participate in the citizen's movement to
14 ban fracking in New York, which included the Marcellus
15 campaign in businesses against fracking New York
16 initiative. We are grateful to Governor Cuomo for
17 bringing a statewide ban throughout New York, and for
18 his recent vote to approve a proposed ban on the
19 Delaware River Watershed.

20 However, while we in New York are able to
21 celebrate our success in getting fracking out of our
22 state, we are still engaged in protecting New York
23 statewide from the public health risks associated with
24 fracking waste activities, except in New York City
25 where its use and distribution is now prohibited.

1 Clearly, the DRBC has recognized the dangers of
2 fracking the Delaware River watershed, which is why
3 this ban is being proposed. The Commission's ban as
4 proposed is incomplete and inadequate because it would
5 allow the storage, treatment, and disposal of toxic
6 fracking waste water within the watershed. Plus the
7 withdrawal of water from the watershed for fracking
8 elsewhere. It is not good enough.

9 Knowingly adding stress to the drinking
10 water resource for 15 million people is dangerous and
11 morally unacceptable. These activities must be
12 permanently prohibited. If the long term health of the
13 watershed is quality and quantity, is truly a value to
14 the Commission.

15 Why are business leaders concerned about
16 fracking? Because fracking and fracking waste endanger
17 public health, the environment, and the economy.
18 Fracking and its related activities place burdens on
19 business. Fracking and its related activities is not
20 the key to a stable, sustainable economy. If fracking,
21 fracking and its activities, and water withdrawals are
22 permitted in Delaware River Basin, short-term economic
23 advantages that get into the oil and gas companies will
24 perpetuate an unlevel playing field for business
25 efforts committed to long-term sustainability.

1 Fracking and its related activities
2 creates industrialized landscapes. And is incompatible
3 with regional economic drivers, such as tourism,
4 sustainable agriculture through the production, and
5 outdoor recreation. All of which depend on natural
6 amenities and shared resources. It impacts property
7 values. It impacts business when its employees and
8 their families experience health problems associated
9 with fracking and its related activities by causing
10 higher healthcare costs, increased workplace
11 absenteeism, and reduced productivity.

12 Businesses of all kinds are being impacted
13 with extreme and have a difficult time with this. We
14 know that fracking the production of waste products are
15 associated with climate change, causing challenges to
16 places such as supply chain disruption, damaged
17 infrastructure, increase in insurance costs, and
18 decreases in property values, delay of closing, and
19 lost revenues. The existing laws regulating fracking
20 are inadequate. And the gas and oil industry is exempt
21 from major environmental laws. Okay.

22 HEARING OFFICER:

23 Thank you, ma'am.

24 MS. BAUM:

25 I just want to say that our nation needs a

1 complete ban on fracking that includes fracking waste
2 activities, and border patrols, and the Delaware
3 Rivers.

4 HEARING OFFICER:

5 Thank you, ma'am. We are not taking any
6 copies. You have to submit it through the mail
7 process, ma'am. Thank you.

8 HEARING OFFICER:

9 Alexander Cupo?

10 MR. CUPO:

11 I spoke at the last hearing.

12 HEARING OFFICER:

13 Yes. Okay. Thank you, sir. Mitch Chanin
14 did as well. Is he here tonight? Okay. And then we
15 go to the list of people who signed up tonight.
16 Catherine Pregnon.

17 MS. PREGNON:

18 Yes.

19 HEARING OFFICER:

20 And the next --- the person on deck would
21 be Lauren Lareau. Ms. Pregnon, is that correct?

22 MS. PREGNON:

23 Pregnon. Yes.

24 HEARING OFFICER:

25 I'm sorry. Okay.