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As a New Yorker, a member of Environmental Advocates of New York, and a former participant in DRBC activities on behalf of NYC DEP, I strongly urge the Delaware River Basin Commission to use their rulemaking process on Hydraulic Fracturing to ban fracking and all associated processes, particularly discharge of fracking wastewaters, from taking place in the basin.

Currently, the Commission's regulations leave the door open to both fracking waste discharge and water withdrawals for fracking, threatening the drinking water source for millions of consumers of water from the New York City drinking water system and other New Yorkers.

Several studies have shown that fracking waste not only contains hundreds of carcinogenic or toxic chemicals, but also contains dangerous levels of radioactivity and salts that are not easily treated at conventional wastewater treatment facilities. The drilling industry also requires the use of millions of gallons of feedwater per day. Allowing water withdrawals and poorly- or untreated fracking wastewaters in the watershed would spell disaster for our most precious resource - our water.

The Delaware River is essential to the well being of New Yorkers and wildlife. The DRBC has the opportunity to serve this purpose by banning fracking and all of its associated practices through their rulemaking process. I urge the DRBC to make the decisions that are most protective of public health and our environment.