

# Mary Hawran

The Delaware River Basin Commission

December 7, 2017

Re: Hydraulic Fracturing for Natural Gas Extraction

Dear Members,

We look around us. Along the banks of the Delaware River are rusting cars with their leaking batteries, and heaps of trash containing toxins. Much of this illegal dumping is half-hidden by colorful scenery and dead leaves. Still it remains, as the rains carry its contaminants down to poison the waterways.

Outside Wayne County where my family lives, coal-fired power plants fume away, making Pennsylvania the acid-rain champ of America. This rain, too, finds its way through farmland soil that feeds us; it goes on its dark journey to every stream, and then finds larger waterways, including the Delaware River.

And with this knowledge, are you Commission Members, guardians of the River Basin, contacting the proper authorities who can fix this mess? Are you familiar with companies who could move the waste from Delaware-River-Basin shores into sealed landfills? Are you seeking the public's help to contact the lawmakers who serve us...to forever ban the use of dirty coal?

Probably not. It must be time-consuming to find all that's wrong with the gas industry.

But the big gas companies are not only capable of paying fines for any damage their fracking might do, but surely you know that they will take care to prevent calamities in the first place. If they don't really care about our environment, they will have to care about losing their money to our government.

For the past ten years, instead of mourning the loss of our Exxon gas lease, my husband works well-beyond retirement age; the bank holds the mortgage on our land and home, which we borrowed against to buy a small educational publishing company. Its office and warehouse are in Honesdale, and we employ only local people. This is a bit of our personal history. Everyone has a story. Everyone can use money. Nothing new.

What is new is the fact that so many of us could benefit from a great natural resource. Not just landowners, but our neighbors who live and work here. Long after the gas wells are capped, this region would continue to provide energy to our state and beyond. And, best of all, natural gas burns clean.

Now, it's up to you. Please look around you. There really is a way to keep our beautiful countryside and clean water, and balance it with progress for Northeast Pennsylvania.

Thank you for your attention to this.

Sincerely,

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