

Betty Sutliff

I am a lifelong resident of Damascus Township, third generation on my family's farm.

A complete ban of natural gas development in the Delaware River Basin is not only a violation of the DRBC Compact, it is unconstitutional and a violation of my rights. Pennsylvanians should be governed by Pennsylvania Law and not the DRBC. What is good for the vast majority of the sixty-seven counties should be good for all.

In late November, oral arguments resumed at the Third Circuit Court of Appeals on the matter of the Wayne Land and Mineral Group's lawsuit against the DRBC's theft of property rights from the upper basin landowners. The precise question put to the DRBC's chief counsel, Ken Warren, was, "If the only criteria for the DRBC to exercise its jurisdiction is that it uses water, why can't you freely roam across the Delaware River Basin and, any place using water, regulate and forbid?"

The DRBC is operating in a fashion completely the opposite of the SRBC even though it is composed of the same governing majority of members. For some reason, while it the DRB, they think they can regulate land use in addition to water quality and quantity. If the DRB gets to regulate anything involving water then it can, in fact, "freely roam the basin and, any place using water, regulate and forbid" at will. This is a massive power grab. Those of us who remember the Tock's Island debacle see this power grab as a Super Park in the making, only this time it is our property and rights that are at stake.