

1 the basin, we ask that such regulations and practice  
2 insure that the Upper Delaware Recreational River is  
3 particularly protected from any withdrawal threat that  
4 could exacerbate flow irregularity or harm wildlife.  
5 Recognizing the position that the governors, their DRBC  
6 designees, and Commission staff have been in over the  
7 last seven years, NPCA applauds the important and  
8 challenging decision that was made to ban fracking in  
9 the Delaware River Basin. NPCA urged the DRBC back in  
10 2011 to hold off on it. Thank you.

11 HEARING OFFICER:

12 Thank you very much. James Schleppenbach.  
13 With a name like that, this is hard for me. I'm sorry.

14 MR. SCHLEPPENBACH:

15 No problem. Schleppenbach. Appreciate  
16 the opportunity. Yeah. I'm up here as a resident of  
17 Solebury Township up in Bucks County. I'm an organic  
18 farmer. I work with farmers that comprise upwards of  
19 400 acres. And what we're learning about agriculture  
20 and the water supply is that there's a decrease in  
21 ground water recharge because of the way agriculture is  
22 done. This has to do with the water supply and the  
23 health of water in the watershed. Everything that we  
24 do impacts how much water is going back into the base  
25 well, recharging streams, ground water supplies that

1 provide the basis of the trout spawning habitat,  
2 critical habitat for all the animals, birds and  
3 everything. We understand when ecosystems are  
4 fractured, and when ecosystems are poisoned, and when  
5 development pressure or other pressures affect the  
6 ability of the ecosystem to sustain itself, all those  
7 checks and balances start to cascade.

8           And clearly, we're experiencing that with  
9 soil degradation, food quality going down, water  
10 quality, again, the basin. And it's already been in a  
11 --- you know, we cut down all the trees hundreds of  
12 years ago. It had an effect on the watershed. We farm  
13 the way we farm. It has an effect on the water quality  
14 and the ground water recharge. So my perspective here  
15 is a systemic one. And with climate change, there's an  
16 increasing pressure on us as food producers to steward  
17 the water resource. Improving what is actually soaking  
18 into the ground, absorbing into the ground, soaking  
19 back in to recharge the water. Which we depend on to  
20 irrigate our crops.

21           So whether or not the removal of water  
22 from the watershed for this proposal would affect me on  
23 my land is to be determined. As well as any  
24 contamination that could happen from waste water that  
25 would be mishandled. But the point is water is already

1 so precious and scarce that extracting water, it's  
2 really, it goes against what we need to be doing  
3 collectively to ensure our grandchildren's capacity to  
4 inherit an ecosystem and a resource base that's  
5 resilient. Because we're already experiencing  
6 pressures and the need to have the opposite of  
7 extraction happening. We need the purification of  
8 water because it's already polluted and challenged. So  
9 this is all part of our ability to sustain ourselves  
10 and the challenges we're going to be facing going  
11 forward. So I applaud the ban. But really, really  
12 hope you reconsider the extraction of the water  
13 resource base and the basin.

14 HEARING OFFICER:

15 Thank you very much, sir. Erica Evans,  
16 please. Erica Evans.

17 MS. EVANS:

18 Hello. Thanks again for the permanent ban  
19 proposal on fracking in our basin. I was out in Ohio,  
20 Eastern Ohio not that long ago. And kind of saw  
21 firsthand the effects of the fracking industry out  
22 there. And was really surprised by not just the  
23 environmental impact it had on their watersheds.  
24 Especially with the mishandling of fracking waste  
25 water. Just the truckers not really caring. Dumping

1 it wherever and not bringing it to the facility that it  
2 was supposed to be taken to. But also the effect it  
3 had on the communities there.

4           The trucks kind of overtaken their small  
5 town roadways. And creating lots of traffic. Kind of  
6 driving unsafely. Also causing lots of road  
7 degradation. The basic infrastructure wasn't built to  
8 handle sort of the industry that has erupted there. So  
9 in addition to my similar concerns as to James is  
10 before me, I just want to urge the Delaware River Basin  
11 Commission to go further and ban not just fracking, but  
12 all the processes involved. And that includes the  
13 discharge of waste water, and the removal of water from  
14 our precious resource, the Delaware River. Thank you.

15           HEARING OFFICER:

16           Thank you. I have gone through the  
17 various lists that were submitted. Is there anybody  
18 else that hasn't spoken at any of the hearings that  
19 would like to make a statement? Ma'am, you're welcome  
20 come it.

21           MS. RYAN:

22           Thank you. I was late. I think you  
23 called my name earlier.

24           HEARING OFFICER:

25           Okay. You're welcome to talk. We have a