

Tom O'Keefe

Dear Members of the DRBC,

This is my second set of comments; please take them as a reflection of how deeply I feel about this issue.

The science is in on fracking, and the results are conclusive. You are no doubt aware of the recent study by Concerned Health Professionals of New York and Physicians for Social Responsibility that showed beyond any reasonable doubt that fracking (and its after effects) is responsible for cancer, lung disease, and birth defects, among many other health issues and is already endangering the healths of millions of Americans. One of the lead researchers referred to fracking "the worst thing I've ever seen."

By now, we all know that the fracking industry – which has been touted by "defense" hawks as key to 21st century American "energy independence" – has little regard for the health of Americans, or for the truth. We all now know that fracked wastewater invariably leaks from the remarkable porous deep injection wells, and that the toxic substances that make up the proprietary (and so trade-secret) cocktail of chemicals that fracking companies have been using for years in their extraction processes have now contaminated farmland, aquifers, and waterways all over the United States.

The damage is already remarkably profound – we need look no further than the devastated communities of the Marcellus Shale in Pennsylvania to confirm that fact. We have decades (if not centuries) of remediation work ahead of us if we hope to regain some semblance of ecological integrity; however, our first task is to stop the bleeding, and you, as members of the DRBC have both a huge opportunity and an immense responsibility to the rest of us who call the Northeast home. Please, I urge you, on your own behalves, and on the behalves of all of us – in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and beyond – and of generations to come, ban fracking, fracked wastewater disposal, and all fracking-related activities – including the construction of these metastatizing fracked-gas infrastructure projects that threaten the health, environment, and economy of the entire region – in short, ban fracking and everything related to it in the Delaware River Basin so that we can commence with the healing and get on with building a just, ecologicalyl-sane, and renewable future.

Thank you for your time. We are counting on you.

With warmth and urgency,
Tom O'Keefe