

1 Thank you, sir.

2 James Barth?

3 MR. BARTH:

4 Good to see you again.

5 HEARING OFFICER:

6 Mr. Barth, please.

7 MR. BARTH:

8 James Barth, Berlin
9 Township. Earlier today, I stated
10 that I support the DRBC proposal to
11 ban high-volume hydraulic fracturing
12 and I urge the Commissioners to ban
13 the treatment and disposal of
14 fracturing for that basin.

15 I focused on the fact
16 that --- I've come here. I spoke
17 about the economic impacts and I spoke
18 about the number of people who lease
19 and the number of people who actually
20 own property in Pennsylvania. And I'm
21 going to just remind you of that again
22 because that's the major argument
23 that's being made at this forum.

24 And when you compare the
25 tax base for Wayne County, there are

1 just under 41,000 individual owners of
2 property. And when you look at the
3 citizen's voice leasing database from
4 2010, there were under 3,500 people
5 --- property owners who lease their
6 land.

7 Eight and one half
8 percent of property owners in Wayne
9 County lease their land and 91 and a
10 half percent did not lease their land.
11 The people who benefit from this and
12 who are speaking tonight and the
13 people who own 129 acres, 366 acres.
14 They are the owners of large
15 properties. And most of them are
16 vacant and have paid very little ---
17 low tax assessment.

18 Now, I wanted to add a
19 little bit I didn't get a chance to
20 say this afternoon as far as the
21 ability of regulations' enforcement to
22 protect the residents of the basin.

23 Quoting Secretary
24 Patrick McDonald, this was January of
25 2017. DEP is down nearly 800 fewer

1 people than we had in 1995. Over the
2 past decade, state funding declined by
3 40 percent. Separately, the US EPA
4 warned that they lacked the necessary
5 staffing to enforce safe drinking
6 water standards.

7 And that, quote,
8 unaddressed safe drinking water act
9 violations nearly doubled in the past
10 five years from 4,298 to 7,922. A
11 three year investigation by the
12 Pittsburgh based Public Herald found
13 that PA DEP received 9,442 complaints
14 in areas where unconventional shale
15 gas development occurred between the
16 years 2004 and 2016.

17 4,108 concerned water
18 quality problems. So this notion that
19 things were --- are fine, nothing has
20 happened in the Susquehanna River
21 Basin is ridiculous. And by the way,
22 PENGA owned --- only connected 284 of
23 those 4,108 to oil and gas. So it
24 shows we're radically unable to
25 enforce anything or to protect

1 anything.

2 And I say that with
3 great regret. Thank you very much.

4 HEARING OFFICER:

5 Thank you, sir.

6 Mr. Martin? Dick
7 Martin? Dick Martin? Now that
8 actually completes my list. However,
9 Lisa Conner, did you want to address
10 the DRBC?

11 MS. CONNOR:

12 No. I'll have --- we're
13 having general conference.

14 HEARING OFFICER:

15 This is later?

16 MS. CONNOR:

17 This is later?

18 HEARING OFFICER:

19 We've gone through the
20 list, yes. Is there anything you'd
21 like to --- say again please?

22 MS. CONNOR:

23 Do I have to go up there
24 to speak?

25 HEARING OFFICER: