

We will take our first question or our first statement, sorry, from Joan Farb. Joan your line is open. Please spell your last name for the record. You have three minutes.

Joan Farb: Okay, my last name is spelled F-A-R-B, as in boy. I am a member—thank you for the opportunity to speak. It's really off the cuff because I really didn't prepare anything, but I will give a detailed comment, a written comment section. I am really against any fracking activities in Delaware River Basin because of the possibility of the pollution of the water for 17 million people. There are many studies available showing that the chemicals that are released from the fracking process cannot be \_\_\_\_\_ [00:36:17] I really think the commission should realize they have a really important responsibility to keep this water pristine. And also, be aware of our constitution article one, section 27, that we are entitled to clean air and water for this generation and future generations and it's their legislative responsibility to assure this situation. Thank you again for this opportunity to speak and I will give more detailed written comment in regard to this. Thank you.

Operator: Once again if you would like to make a statement today, please press star and one.

We will take our next statement from Tom Shepstone. Tom, please spell your last name for the record. You have three minutes.

Tom Shepstone: S-H-E-P-S-T-O-N-E. And I previously commented, and I just want to add to my comments that this ban relies heavily upon the designation of special protection waters in the Upper Basin. In fact, those special protection waters aren't special at all. They are nothing but the same classification that Pennsylvania already has for high quality streams and exceptional value streams. In fact, fracking, hydraulic fracturing is being done on exceptional value, in exceptional value watersheds in the Susquehanna River Basin Commission with, as the SRBC reports, no discernible impact on the quality of the water resources as a result of natural gas development, end of quote. The fact that that statement has been ignored and the fact that that data has been ignored that we are doing drilling in the exceptional value watersheds of Pennsylvania in the SRBC regions shows that the intent here is to completely avoid and evade the truth that hydraulic fracturing has had no detrimental impact, no discernible impact on the quality of water resources and therefore there is no rationale for banning it in the Delaware River Basin. And in fact, the same commissions who serve on the SRBC serve on the DRBC. So, there is no excuse for ignoring the data and ignoring the facts of life, which are that this can be done safely and has been done safely.

What's going on here is the taking of land in the Upper Delaware quarter that would generate revenue for economic development, which is one of the purposes of the DRBC. And it's being done without the proper justification.

One of the other justifications is the landscape changes. It's notable that they rely in the justification on the possible removal of forest. Yet we have data in Wayne County showing we have added 45,000 acres of forest since 1959, which is far more than anything that would ever be removed by fracking or pipeline development or any of those things. So that's a false excuse.

We also hear the excuse that it's about the possible spill. Now, we are speculating about future harm. Well, if that's the case, then we can ban trains, too, because trains have derailed along the Upper Delaware for years and spilled things into the river. Are we going to ban everything that possibly has an accident? That is just simple foolishness and the implications of that are far reaching.

So as far as I am concerned, these hearings are a bit of a sham as well. I understand they are being properly conducted. I respect that. However, they are being conducted after the fact. The decision has already been made. The four governors of the states have already announced how they are going to vote, so these hearings have no purpose other than to put on a dog and pony show and I do resent that fact. Thank you for the opportunity.

Steve Tambini:

This is Steve Tambini again. As of now, we don't see anyone else who has indicated that they would like to speak. That being said, what I would like to do is suggest that it is 2:20 now. I think what we are going to do is leave the lines open until at least 2:40 for the next 20 minutes and keep an eye for anyone else who would like to either, I don't know what the right term is, raise their hand to speak or if someone comes on the line a little bit late. At 2:30, well let's put it this way, if somebody gets on the line in the meantime, we will open up the line, but if nobody gets on the line at 2:40, we will open up the line and we will make a decision as to what to do next. You are welcome to stay. You are welcome not to stay, but the hearing is not over yet. We are just taking a pause for about 20 minutes while we wait and see if anyone else joins the line. Operator, are you okay with that process?

Operator:

Yes.

Steve Tambini:

So, do you want to repeat again if somebody wants to speak at this point, they need to do what?

Operator:

Absolutely. If you would like to make a statement at this time, please press the star and one on your touch tone keypad.

Steve Tambini:

So, if you decide to leave, I will just say thank you for attending and thank you for commenting. I will make that statement again at the end, but if you are not here at 2:40 or beyond, thank you very much for your input. For now, we will go into recess and we will watch to see if anyone joins or if anyone indicates that they would like to speak. We will come on the phone again at 2:40. So thank you again.