

1 MS. CARLUCCIO:

2 We stand with the
3 Delaware River Basin Commission to ban
4 fracking, ban fracking and all of its
5 activities. Thank you.

6 HEARING OFFICER:

7 Janice Rapp is on deck,
8 and then the next person to speak is
9 Peter Wynn.

10 MR. WYNN:

11 My name is Peter Wynn.
12 I own property in Wayne County's
13 Preston Township. The Delaware River
14 Basin Commission decided that natural
15 gas wells laid within the Commission's
16 regulatory interview all the way back
17 in May of 2009, and even later, the
18 five Commissioners voted unanimously
19 to hold off on any decision whether to
20 permits such wells in the basin until
21 drilling regulations were adopted.

22 In December 2010, the
23 DRBC published proposed regulations
24 and held public hearings which
25 elicited more than 60,000 public

1 comments.

2 After reviewing these,
3 the Commission posted its revised
4 drafted regulations. This was in
5 November of 2011. But proponents of
6 gas drilling raised such a ruckus, the
7 Commissioners backed away from their
8 regulations and did not revisit them
9 again in a public form.

10 Now, this last
11 September, the DRBC announced it
12 intended to make permanent the de
13 facto moratorium put in place more
14 than seven years earlier. And in
15 November, the Commission posted
16 proposed rules that would formally ban
17 horizontal drilling and hydraulic
18 fracturing or fracking in the Basin.

19 Now, over the years, the
20 explanation given for the Commission's
21 inaction was that the Commissioners
22 were uncertain about the safety of
23 drilling wells into the various shale
24 layers that lay beneath our region and
25 stimulating those wells produce more

1 gas by breaking up the shale
2 surrounding the well bore with fluid
3 under high pressure in a process
4 called hydraulic fracturing.

5 Backing up into 2011,
6 only a limited amount of information
7 was indeed available on the effects
8 and risks of fracking in the Marcellus
9 shale and in shale areas such as the
10 Utica, laying deeper down. But since
11 then, something like 1,100 natural gas
12 wells, have been drilled and fracked
13 next door in Susquehanna Count where
14 geologists tells us the geology is
15 essentially the same as ours in Wayne
16 County and there is yet to be a single
17 instance where hydraulic fracturing
18 fluids have seeped upward and
19 contaminated the fresh water aquafers
20 that lay many thousands of feet above
21 the shale.

22 Moreover, the surface
23 activities of the well drillers have
24 vastly improved over the last six or
25 seven years. Wastewater for fracking

1 is now recycled. It's no longer held
2 in open pits or carted off to be
3 pumped into injection wells.

4 Pipelines now carry
5 water from one well to another
6 replacing the trucks that were once
7 used for that task. The Delaware ---
8 the Susquehanna River and its
9 tributaries show no sign of pollution
10 from fracking chemicals. Just how
11 much evidence that drilling fracking
12 is safe must the Delaware River Basin
13 Commissioners have?

14 If the Commission
15 proceeds to adopt a permanent ban on
16 horizontal drilling and hydraulic
17 fracturing in the basin, I, for one,
18 will be forced to conclude that the
19 Governors of the Commission member
20 states, their representatives and the
21 professional staff of the Commission
22 are willing to serve their own
23 political and financial advantage by
24 aggregating the property rights of the
25 landowners of Pike and Wayne Counties.