

Jeffery Ward

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to support the commission's proposal to protect our natural resources by prohibiting hydraulic fracturing in the Delaware River Basin, but I urge you to strengthen regulations that would let drillers withdraw millions of gallons from our waters and send fracking wastewater here for treatment.

As an angler and as person who likes to have CLEAN DRINKING WATER, I'm concerned about the potential impacts from this activity in a place that is home to some of the best trout fishing in the region.

I am pleased to see that these measures will protect these streams— both today and for future generations.

But I am concerned about water withdrawals for drilling elsewhere. This could have major impacts on our trout habitat and the underground aquifers. The regulations do not spell out how we would be protected from low flows and high temperatures that could result if drillers were allowed to tap our streams for hydraulic fracturing or for the availability of clean drinking water.

Likewise, if treatment of fracking wastewater is permitted here, the commission should set water quality standards for all chemicals that could be present, so we are assured of proper treatment.

Finally, I'm very concerned about the commission's ability to enforce these regulations, and urge you to put in place sound inspection and monitoring protocols.

I appreciate the commission's thorough study of this issue and thank you for considering my comments. With some tightening, these measures will go a long way toward protecting trout habitat and clean water in the Delaware.

Sincerely,

Jeff Ward