



For Immediate Release:

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**Delaware Riverkeeper Network Approved to Intervene in PA GOP Senators Lawsuit
that Sought to Overturn Fracking Moratorium in Delaware River Basin**

U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania - The Delaware Riverkeeper Network (DRN) and the Delaware Riverkeeper Maya van Rossum's Motion for Leave to Intervene as Defendants in the federal lawsuit filed against the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) was granted yesterday, February 25. The decision was issued the same day as the DRBC's vote to permanently ban fracking in the Delaware River Watershed.

The Complaint filed on January 11 by PA State Senators Gene Yaw and Lisa Baker, the Pennsylvania Senate Republican Caucus and Damascus Township in Wayne County, sought to overturn the de facto DRBC moratorium on gas drilling, fracking, and related operations in the Delaware River Watershed. DRN filed its Motion to Intervene on February 12, 2021.

"The Court's decision recognizes the important role the Delaware Riverkeeper Network plays in protecting the Delaware River, its watershed and communities. The DRBC's recent decision to permanently ban fracking in the Delaware River Watershed confirmed how dangerous fracking is. This lawsuit by the extremist senators is about serving the fracking industry, not protecting the people of Pennsylvania or respecting the rights of future generations. Senators Yaw and Baker are violating their oath to uphold the constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and their duty to protect the health, safety and rights of all Pennsylvanians including future generations by continuing to try to force fracking on Pennsylvania communities. I and my organization will take all steps necessary to defend our watershed and communities from fake facts, ignorance of science, and the devastations of the fracking industry," **stated Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper, leader of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network and named party in the motion to intervene.**

"The Delaware Riverkeeper Network rises to the challenges that threaten the Delaware River Watershed's communities and irreplaceable natural assets. The development of shale gas, fracking and its operations have wreaked havoc on the environment and public health everywhere it occurs. We will defend the Delaware River Watershed from attack by the PA Senate GOP Caucus lawsuit through our intervention. This ill-informed and politically-driven lawsuit simply has no credence. The decisions made in our

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Watershed, including the essential ban on fracking, need to be made based on science, and what is best for the watershed and the communities, human and nonhuman, that live here and the millions of people who rely on the Delaware River for drinking water,” **said Tracy Carluccio, Deputy Director, Delaware Riverkeeper Network.**

A copy of the court order granting the Motion to Intervene is here:

<https://delawareriverkeeper.org/sites/default/files/2021.02.25%20Order%20Granting%20MTI.pdf>

A copy of DRN’s Motion for Leave to Intervene is here: <http://bit.ly/motiontointervene>

Background:

The DRBC is comprised of the four states with lands and tributaries within the Delaware River Watershed – New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware, and a representative of the federal government from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The five voting members of the DRBC make the policy decisions that guide the DRBC, vote on regulations and review and approve or deny permits for projects, called “dockets”, at regularly scheduled public meetings.

The moratorium was put in place by a unanimous vote of the Commissioners in 2010. The de facto moratorium on gas drilling, fracking, water withdrawals, and wastewater discharges from fracking throughout the Delaware River Watershed was nearly ended in 2011 when the DRBC Commissioners were set to vote on gas drilling regulations that would have allowed gas drilling and related operations to start. However, the Governors expressed opposition to the allowance of fracking in the hours leading up to the vote, citing water quality concerns, and a moratorium has been in place since then.

Delaware Riverkeeper Network and an active coalition of organizations have advocated with the public for stopping any shale gas development from commencing in the basin for more than a decade and have rallied continuously for a full ban on fracking in the Delaware River Watershed, including a ban on frack wastewater processing and discharges and water withdrawals from the river to fuel fracking anywhere. On February 25, 2021, the DRBC voted to permanently ban fracking in the Delaware River Watershed. Action was also taken in a second resolution towards the proposal of regulations covering the import and export of frack wastewater and water for fracking, which could lead to the adoption of a ban on the import of wastewater produced by fracking for its processing and discharge here and the export of water from the basin for use in fracking outside of the watershed.

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