

## **For Immediate Release**

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## **Over 100,000 Petitions Demanding Fracking Ban Delivered**

*Governor Carney asked to vote for a COMPLETE fracking ban in  
Delaware River Basin*

*Dover, DE* – Representatives of Delaware organizations submitted 104,101 signed petitions to Governor Carney at his office in the Tattnall Building today. The petitions, collected by groups representing members in all four states that are part of the Delaware River Watershed, asks the Governors to vote at the Delaware River Basin Commission for a complete and permanent ban on fracking and its activities. The petitions call for a ban on fracking throughout the Delaware River Basin, a ban on frack wastewater processing and discharges in the Basin, and a ban on water exports from the Delaware River Watershed to fuel fracking elsewhere.

The Delaware River Basin Commission, made up of the governors of Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey and Delaware, and the Army Corps of Engineers representing the federal government, are expected to vote in the coming months on the proposed fracking ban. Recent developments such as the EPA's report on the high toxicity of waste produced by fracking, the Trump Administration's movement to relax frack waste disposal regulations along with other environmental protections and recent scientific reports with dire warnings about climate change – which is worsened by methane released by fracking – provide the backdrop for the new petitions being submitted.

“People are expressing their commitment to protecting the Delaware River Watershed through these 104,000+ petitions addressed to the Governors. Frack wastewater discharges in the Estuary or river will threaten the Delaware Bay, Delaware's coastal resources, and the state's water supply, all vulnerable because Delaware is downstream, on the receiving end of everything that happens upstream. We are speaking loud and clear for a complete ban that prohibits fracking, frack wastewater discharges and the export of water from the Delaware for fracking and nothing less. We are submitting these petitions to Governor Carney so he is well aware of the public's support for him to vote for a COMPLETE fracking ban in the Delaware River Watershed,” **said Tracy Carluccio, Deputy Director, Delaware Riverkeeper Network.**

“Liquid and solid fracking wastes contain myriad toxic materials, many of which cannot be separated from this waste at any reasonable cost. Importing them into the Delaware River Basin would threaten irreplaceable resources and the ecological balance of this vital system and diminish its immense economic value. Delaware gets no money from fracking, but the DRBC proposal would allow contamination from toxic and radioactive chemicals and increasing salt content from river diminished flow. For the sake of Delaware’s economy and its quality of life, we want Governor Carney to ban all fracking-related activities,” **said Coralie Pryde, Delaware Sierra Club.**

"I believe in the fundamental right of clean water and our duty as students and citizens to protect it. Fracking is both detrimental in the uptake and corruption of clean water to be used as fracking water and the poisoning of other sources due to flowback. I urge Gov. Carney to vote in favor of a permanent ban of this practice, the wastewater it produces and the water it consumes, to ensure our right to clean water," **said Sabin Lowe, High School Senior at Newark Charter.**

**Organizations that collected signatures on the ban petition include:**

- Berks Gas Truth
- Bucks Environmental Action
- Catskill Mountainkeeper
- Clean Water Action NJ
- CREDO
- Damascus Citizens for Sustainability
- Delaware Riverkeeper Network
- Delaware Sierra Club
- Environment New Jersey
- Food and Water Watch
- Natural Resources Defense Council
- NJ Sierra Club
- Pennsylvania Chapter Sierra Club
- Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter

**The Petition:**

**DRBC – ENACT A FULL BAN ON FRACKING**

*To the Delaware River Basin Commission voting members - the Governors of New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware, representing the Basin states, and the Army Corps of Engineers, representing the federal government:*

*We, the undersigned, call for the Delaware River Basin Commission to enact a permanent ban on natural gas drilling and fracking and all related activities (including*

*drilling; fracking; fracking wastewater storage, processing and discharges; and water withdrawals for drilling and fracking) throughout the Delaware River Watershed.*

*During the eight years of the DRBC drilling moratorium, scientific studies have exposed environmental harms and documented damaging health effects, leading New York and Maryland to ban fracking. The overwhelming weight of evidence shows that shale gas simply cannot be extracted safely.*

*The DRBC is responsible for protecting the water resources of the Delaware River Watershed — upon which 15 million people rely for their drinking water. This water supply and the Wild and Scenic Delaware River are irreplaceable. The time to enact a permanent ban is NOW.*

### **Background:**

Since 2010 the DRBC has prohibited natural gas extraction projects in the Delaware River Basin while they study its potential impacts on water resources, a *de-facto* moratorium that does not allow permits to be issued until natural gas regulations are adopted.

A mounting call by the public for transforming the current moratorium on natural gas drilling, fracking and related activities in the Delaware River Watershed into a permanent ban has resulted in the proposed fracking ban but the DRBC also included in draft regulations the allowance of frack wastewater discharges in the Delaware River Watershed and the withdrawal of fresh water from the basin for fracking. The draft regulations were issued Nov. 30, 2017 and the comment period closed March 31, 2018. The DRBC is now deliberating on how to proceed.

There has been a broad public demand for a complete fracking ban, including banning wastewater and water withdrawals, expressing that it is unacceptable to allow the toxic pollution from frack wastewater and the depletion of the river's water for fracking. All evidence proves how this would cause serious harm to the watershed and the water supply of up to 17 million people.

Organizations point out that recent decisions from the Trump Administration make it more urgent than ever that Governors Murphy (NJ), Cuomo (NY), Wolf (PA) and Carney (DE) act now to pass a complete ban on fracking and all of its associated activities throughout the Delaware River Basin. Even as the United Nation's climate experts gave dire warnings about how we need to urgently act to move away from fossil fuel extraction and burning, including fracked gas, to avoid catastrophic climate change, (see the report here: <https://bit.ly/2IOH2bK>), and the U.S. National Climate Assessment Report warns the impacts of climate change are already being felt in communities

across the country and will worsen as more frequent and intense extreme weather and climate-related events occur, (see report here: (<https://nca2018.globalchange.gov/>), President Trump denies that humans cause climate change. Despite releasing an EPA report that showed the toxic dangers of fracking wastewater to our waterways, (see report here: <https://bit.ly/2yywFoF>), the Trump Administration's EPA may undo the prohibition on the acceptance of frack wastewater at the nation's municipal sewage facilities and ease current water quality protections, paving the way for frack wastewater to be dumped in surface water, including the Delaware River Watershed (see details here: <https://www.epa.gov/eg/study-oil-and-gas-extraction-wastewater-management>).

As an autonomous agency formed under federal law to manage the shared waters of the Basin, the DRBC members are responsible for equitably protecting the drinking water supplies of 15 to 17 million people in all four states, including the metropolitan areas of New York City and Philadelphia, and the federally designated Wild and Scenic Delaware River.

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