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New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy Pledges Support for Ban on Fracking in the Delaware River Watershed

Environmental Organizations Applaud Announcement; Advance Complete Ban

Phillipsburg, N.J. – New Jersey Environmental organizations stood with newly inaugurated Governor Phil Murphy on the banks of the Delaware River in Phillipsburg, New Jersey, this morning while the Governor announced his commitment to ban fracking throughout the Delaware River Watershed. The Governor confirmed that he is opposed to the dangerous and polluting practice of fracking for natural gas and will vote as a Commissioner of the Delaware River Basin Commission to ban it. Governor Murphy is one of the four Governors of the states that are part of the Delaware River Basin who will decide in the coming months on a proposed fracking ban in the Watershed.

“Today, the Delaware River has come one step closer to full protection of the Watershed, the water supply for up to 17 million people, including millions in New Jersey, and the Wild and Scenic River through the enactment of a complete ban on fracking and its activities, throughout the Delaware River Watershed. Our goal is to achieve a ban on fracking, including a ban on the discharge of frack wastewater and the export of Delaware River Watershed water for fracking elsewhere and today Governor Murphy has brought us closer than ever before to a vote by the DRBC Commissioners for this critical protective action. Governor Murphy stated that fracking pollution will ruin New Jersey and the other watershed states and that frack wastewater is “particularly odious”. We stand with the Governor to prevent the destruction fracking would bring

and to protect the magnificent Delaware River and its irreplaceable Watershed,” **said Tracy Carluccio, Deputy Director, Delaware Riverkeeper Network.**

“Governor Murphy’s announcement to ban fracking - drilling, water withdrawals and dumping of its waste water - in the Delaware River Watershed is critically important to the wellbeing of the region’s ecology and drinking water supplies, but also to ensuring that all future paths lead to 100% renewable energy by 2050. All steps taken to prevent fossil fuel production, distribution and pollution is a step in the right direction. We applaud the governor’s announcement today,” **said Amy Goldsmith, New Jersey State Director at Clean Water Action.**

“Governor Murphy is stepping up to protect the 17 million people who depend on the region for drinking water from the hazards of fracking including the over 3 million in NJ. Murphy supports the DRBC’s proposed ban on fracking as well as strengthening the ban to include no dumping or taking of water for frack activities. With his leadership we need to get the other Governors to also support a full DRBC ban on fracking in the Delaware River Basin,” **said Jeff Tittel, Director of the New Jersey Sierra Club.** "The Sierra Club has been working on this for ten years with the Delaware Riverkeeper Network and some other groups. Now that we’ve won, other groups are jumping on the Bandwagon. We are proud to finally see our efforts paid off. Murphy supporting a full ban on fracking is a big victory for the environment, water, and communities of the Delaware Basin. No fracking way do we want drilling in the Delaware!"

"Fracking represents the largest threat to the future of the Delaware River watershed. Governor Murphy is turning the page from the Christie era, which turned a blind eye to this threat. Governor Murphy said fracking and its chemicals don't respect state lines and he will support a complete fracking ban in the watershed. The Delaware River now has the advocate it deserves with Governor Murphy," **said Doug O’Malley, Director of Environment New Jersey.**

The Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) issued draft natural gas regulations on Nov. 30. They proposed a ban on fracking but also issued draft regulations that would allow the toxic wastewater produced by fracking to be stored, processed, and discharged in the Delaware River Watershed and allow water to be exported from the

Basin for fracking elsewhere. An outpouring of public support for a ban but against the import of frack wastewater and the export of water for fracking has been voiced at Hearings and on the public record during the ongoing public comment period on the proposals, which will close March 30. The Frack Ban Coalition is made up of groups from all four states and beyond, representing millions of people.



Governor announces ban on fracking in Delaware River Watershed