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PRESS STATEMENT

**Attorney General Josh Shapiro and PA Senate Democrats
Seek to Address Fracking Negligence**

Today Pennsylvania Attorney General Josh Shapiro and Pennsylvania Senator Steve Santarsiero held a press conference discussing a proposed set of bills to increase oversight and transparency on fracking in the state. The proposed bills are a result of the recommendations from Pennsylvania's 43rd Statewide Investigating Grand Jury report on the industry.

"Attorney General Josh Shapiro has taken seriously his obligation to protect the environmental rights of the people of Pennsylvania promised by Article 1 Section 27. The Grand Jury investigation documenting the many ways Pennsylvania government has failed to protect Pennsylvanians from the devastating consequences of fracking was an important first step. Today's announcement of increased protections is an important second step and my organization looks forward to thoroughly reviewing and vetting the legislative proposals announced today. But there is a critical step three that is needed immediately, we need a moratorium on any new fracking permits while the proposed legislative proposals advance. Pennsylvania's people and environments are being impacted by irreversible and unacceptable harm from fracking. Now that we have clear recognition that the government has failed to fully and fairly protect the people and environments of Pennsylvania and failed to fulfill the constitutional obligations in Article 1 Section 27 to protect our environmental rights and natural resources, it is clear that a moratorium preventing the further expansion and proliferation of the fracking industry is what is constitutionally, legally and morally required," said **Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper and leader of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network.**

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“Reform is very much needed in order to prevent the ruinous impacts of fracking on people and the environment here in Pennsylvania. Senator Muth was spot on when she said that Pennsylvania is a contaminated mess. While it is good to hear that the Pennsylvania legislature and Attorney General’s office is dedicated to advance legislation that will increase protections, every day damage to the health, safety, and environments of our Pennsylvania communities continues and grows; every new permit issued for a new or expanding well site increases and exacerbates the devastating harm. As a result, while the legislative proposals are developed and advance through the often long and arduous legislative process, there must be a moratorium on permits to stop the bleeding,” said **Tracy Carluccio, Deputy Director of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network.**

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