

March 13, 2019

The Honorable Andrew Cuomo
The Honorable Tom Wolf
The Honorable John Carney
Commissioners, Delaware River Basin Commission

Dear Governors,

In the coming months, the Delaware River Basin Commission (“the Commission”) is expected to vote on the proposed ban on hydraulic fracturing throughout the Delaware River Watershed. This will include a vote on the draft natural gas regulations allowing the import and discharge of wastewater produced by fracking, as well as water withdrawals for fracking being done outside the basin.

In his January 28 letter to the Commission, New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy detailed his support for a complete watershed-wide permanent ban on fracking and its associated activities, including a ban on wastewater storage, processing and discharges in the Basin, and a ban on water exports from the watershed for use in fracking elsewhere. In doing so, Governor Murphy cited the dangers of fracking chemicals, the hazardous materials that fracking produces, fracking wastewater’s secret toxic chemicals, and the dangers of damage to the water supplies of the Delaware River Watershed.

As Commissioners, you decide the regulations and policies that govern the water resources of the Basin and, most importantly, are the stewards of the River, its watershed and its irreplaceable water supplies, the health of its residents, living communities, and habitats. ***We are asking you to vote for a complete ban on fracking and its activities in the Delaware River Basin.***

During the public comment period that ended in March of last year, tens of thousands of people submitted comments to the Commission calling for a complete ban on all aspects of fracking. And in December, over 100,000 petitions were submitted to the governors of the four states that are part of the Commission, amplifying the call for a complete fracking ban.

Organizations representing over a million members have submitted extensive technical and policy reports detailing why a complete ban on fracking is the only certain means of protecting the basin’s water resources and the outstanding values of the Wild and Scenic Delaware River – a river recognized by Congress and protected by special water quality regulations.

We ask that you join with Governor Murphy in his request articulated in his January letter: that you work with him “to ensure that the Commission’s final rules provide a complete ban on all fracking activities”.

Sincerely,

Delaware River Frack Ban Coalition Organizing Committee:

Catskill Mountainkeeper

Clean Water Action

Damascus Citizens for Sustainability

Delaware Riverkeeper Network

Delaware Sierra Club

Environment New Jersey

Food & Water Watch

Natural Resources Defense Council

New Jersey Sierra Club