



House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

RECEIVED/DELAWARE RIVER
BASIN COMMISSION

2011 APR 11 P 12:06

SCOTT E. HUTCHINSON, MEMBER
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April 6, 2011

Ms. Pamela Bush, Esquire
Commission Secretary and Assistant General Counsel
Delaware River Basin Commission
P.O. Box 7360
25 State Police Drive
West Trenton, NJ 08628-0360

Dear Ms. Bush:

I am writing to you today to offer comments regarding the Delaware River Basin Commission's (DRBC) Proposed Amendments to the Water Quality Regulations, Water Code and Comprehensive Plan to Provide Regulation of Natural Gas Development Projects.

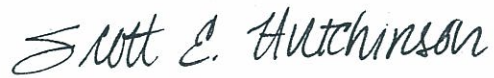
I am seriously concerned with the potential impact of the proposed regulation on the Commonwealth. It is my belief that the proposed regulation inserts the Commission in directing land use planning and other planning and zoning matters that are legally the domain of state and local government. In addition, Pennsylvania has over 150+ years of oil and natural gas development, and over this time has implemented comprehensive laws and regulations to provide effective oversight to this industry.

In my view, the proposed regulations duplicate our state's requirements in many respects by expanding the authority of the DRBC into regulating oil and gas development, and by creating additional regulatory barriers that will affect the economic viability of developing this important natural resource within Pennsylvania. I fail to see the regulatory need for the DRBC to insert itself into the oversight of natural gas operations, especially in the area of the siting, design, and operation of well pads as envisioned by the proposed regulations.

Please understand I support the responsible development of natural gas from the Marcellus Shale. Natural gas is a very efficient, clean, and versatile fuel. Increasing the supply of natural gas through the development of the Marcellus Shale formation will enhance energy security and create significant economic development. On the economic development side, Marcellus Shale natural gas industry has created an estimated 88,000 jobs through 2010 in Pennsylvania and over \$380 million in economic activity in 2009.

I urge the Commission to significantly amend the proposed regulations by eliminating all provisions of the regulations that duplicate existing environmental laws and regulations already in place in the Commonwealth. DRBC should concentrate instead on managing water resources based upon its existing charter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Scott E. Hutchinson".

Scott E. Hutchinson, Chairman
Environmental Resources and Energy Committee
PA State Representative
64th District – Venango and Butler Counties

CC: John Hines, DEP