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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-3214

February 1, 2011

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RECEIVED/DELAWARE RIVER  
BASIN COMMISSION

P 12:32

Carol R. Collier  
Executive Director  
Delaware River Basin Commission  
P.O. BOX 7360  
West Trenton, NJ 08628-0360

Dear Director Collier,

I am writing in regards to the most recent natural gas development regulations proposed by the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC or Commission). These regulations will impact more than 15 million people who rely on the Basin for drinking water, of which more than half (approximately 8 million) are New York City residents. Yet, of the three upcoming hearings on the proposed regulations, none are scheduled to take place in New York City.

Many of my constituent have expressed their serious concerns about hydraulic-fracturing New Yorkers have expressed about hydraulic fracturing. In 2010 both Houses of the state legislature passed measures calling for a moratorium on hydraulic fracturing. On December 11, 2010, then Governor David Paterson signed an Executive Order halting the practice until July 1, 2011 to give the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation an opportunity to complete a comprehensive review. Mayor Michael Bloomberg has called for a cautious approach because the peril of a mistake would cause such a widespread impact. Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer has spear-headed a "Kill the Drill" campaign which to date includes a coalition of more than 26 community organization and 35 elected officials from all 5 boroughs, myself included. The fluids used in hydraulic fracturing are highly toxic. It is reported that exposure to them has cause serious illness in both people and animals. Hydraulic fracturing has resulted in contamination of drinking water wells around drilling sites throughout the country. In 2009 100% of New York City drinking water came from the Catskill/Delaware system. In the event that the basin were to be contaminated, the cost of building a filtration plant is estimated at \$20 billion.

Both the physical and financial safety of New Yorkers are at risk from drilling in the Marcellus Shale. Therefore, I strongly urge you to you to extend the comment period on the draft regulations an additional 90 days beyond the current March 16, 2011 deadline and to hold an additional hearing in the New York City area to allow all New Yorkers a chance to be heard.

Sincerely

  
CAROLYN B. MALONEY  
Member of Congress

CBM/da  
cc: Margery Schab  
Please Reply To: 1651 Third Ave, Suite 311, New York, NY 10128