

**HONESDALE BOROUGH MAYOR****Jonathan Fritz**958 Main Street  
Honesdale, Pennsylvania 18431  
570-253-0731

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*Honesdale, Pennsylvania - Small Town Charm & Safety with Big Town Service & Convenience*

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3/01/2011

Dear DRBC,

Please accept this letter not in regard to your proposed natural gas drilling regulations, but in regard to the possibility of extending your 90-day comment period.

Since 2008, Wayne County has been waiting for the Delaware River Basin Commission to lift the moratorium on drilling in the Delaware River Basin. Now after years of delay, the DRBC is considering extending the 90-day public comment period and scheduling more hearings on its draft regulations in the Philadelphia and New York City areas. As the Mayor of Honesdale, I urge you to oppose an extension of the public comment period and allow Wayne County to be a part of this extraordinary opportunity.

I provided oral testimony at Honesdale High School on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. There it was announced that 1600 written comments had already been received with three weeks left before the deadline. At this public hearing, over 150 speakers ranging from property owners to elected officials to energy professionals testified on your proposed regulations. Two similar meetings were also held in Liberty and Trenton. With still two weeks before the deadline, there has been, and is, more than enough time for the DRBC to gather the input necessary to make a decision.

Extending the comment period will only further delay DRBC regulation that is redundant in the first place. After years of gathering information, the DRBC should step aside and stop halting the economic growth that will help keep our young people here in Pennsylvania. The time has come to move forward with responsible drilling. Again, I urge you to not extend the March 16<sup>th</sup> deadline.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jonathan Fritz".

Jonathan Fritz

fax #: 609-883-9522



## HONESDALE BOROUGH MAYOR

**Jonathan Fritz**

958 Main Street  
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April 8, 2011

Commission Secretary  
DRBC  
25 State Police Drive  
West Trenton, NJ 08628

Dear Delaware River Basin Commission,

Thank you for holding the hearing in Honesdale on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. I'd like to offer again some of the concerns I expressed that day, and that you may have heard from others.

While I respect your role in addressing issues facing the Delaware River Watershed, your proposed natural gas drilling regulations push the bounds of your authority to its absolute limit. These draft rules pose an unnecessary layer of regulation that will only cost money and create confusion. Furthermore, these regulations completely discount the huge economic impact that Marcellus Shale development can bring to our local communities.

I, just like the Commission, want to do all I can to preserve our natural resources and keep Pennsylvanians safe. However, the rules, written as they are create a de facto moratorium on development in the Delaware River Basin. Everyone can work together to monitor and regulate the natural gas development process but there has got to be willingness on the Commission's part to cooperate with state regulators, rather than impose no requirements, costs and repetitive burdens. Too much is at stake for our local communities.

In 2009, a Penn State study found that \$4.5 billion in economic activity was produced by the development of natural gas in Pennsylvania alone. This produced \$400 million in state and local tax revenue and created almost 50,000 jobs. A recent analysis by an investment research firm estimated Marcellus activity could create \$250 billion in economic activity. The potential career opportunities for our youth, growth of our local businesses and much needed tax dollars for our region is too great to be thrown away over hysteria.

The DEP has been increasing its workforce and strengthening its regulations due to the gas boom, but has also managed to allow opportunities for business as well. This can also be achieved by the DRBC. Please take this into account as you consider these draft regulations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J Fritz".

Jonathan Fritz, Mayor of Honesdale, PA