

ROBERT L. FREEMAN
MAJORITY CHAIRMAN
LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES
AND ENERGY COMMITTEE
STATE GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE
RECEIVED DELAWARE RIVER
BASIN COMMISSION



175695
215 NORTHAMPTON STREET
EASTON, PENNSYLVANIA 18042
PHONE: (610) 253-5543
FAX: (610) 250-2645

207 IRVIS OFFICE BUILDING
P.O. BOX 202136
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-2136
PHONE: (717) 783-3815
FAX: (717) 783-2152

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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

February 11, 2011

Carol Collier
Executive Director
Delaware River Basin Commission
P.O. Box 7360
West Trenton, NJ 08628

Dear Director Collier and Commission Members,

As a Pennsylvania legislator who has represented the City of Easton for over 24 years the Delaware River is an important natural resource for my community. I understand that the DRBC has set several public hearings at various locations and dates in order to receive testimony regarding the proposed natural gas drilling regulations that you issued on December 9, 2010.

However, due to the vast number of people these regulations will affect I urge you to expand the public input process in order to give more people an opportunity to participate. The 90 day comment period is simply not long enough for large numbers of people to meaningfully participate, especially considering the strong public concern about the impacts of natural gas drilling on drinking water.

The proposed regulations require very intricate review and technical analysis. These comments will take time to develop and require careful expert review. This short time frame may not be long enough for a thorough review of an issue which affects so many people and is so technical in nature.

I respectfully request that the Commission expand the public participation process for the proposed regulations from 90 days to 180 days in order to allow for greater public participation. Verbal testimony is an important way people can take part and three hearings are not sufficient to allow input from the public.

Furthermore, public hearings should be held at geographically accessible locations. In Pennsylvania, the state with the largest and longest land mass that drains to the Delaware, there should be at least one in the Upper Delaware, one in the Lehigh Valley Region and a public hearing in Philadelphia, where 1.5 million people rely on getting their drinking water from the Delaware River.

Thank you for considering my suggestions regarding the public's input into the Commission's proposed natural gas drilling regulations that will shape the future of the Delaware River Basin. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Robert L. Freeman", followed by a horizontal line.

Robert L. Freeman
State Representative
136th Legislative District

ROBERT L. FREEMAN
DEMOCRATIC CHAIRMAN
LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE



House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

April 13, 2011

176161
215 NORTHAMPTON STREET
EASTON, PENNSYLVANIA 18042
PHONE: (610) 253-5543
FAX: (610) 250-2645

207 IRVIS OFFICE BUILDING
P.O. BOX 202136
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-2136
PHONE: (717) 783-3815
FAX: (717) 783-2152

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

Re: Draft Natural Gas Development Regulations for the Delaware River Basin

Dear Director Collier and Commission Members,

I am writing to urge the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) to strengthen the proposed natural gas development regulations that are being considered.

Preserving the quality and health of the Delaware River is essential to ensuring sustainable and healthy communities in the Delaware Valley, as 5% of the US population relies on the River for its drinking water. As such, I believe it is critical that the DRBC strengthens the proposed gas regulations being considered to ensure protection of the resources and the drinking water supply. The DRBC should conduct a cumulative impact analysis of natural gas development on the resources of the Delaware River Basin before finalizing a vote on the proposed regulations. I am concerned that adopting these regulations before a cumulative impact study of the Delaware River Basin is conducted, is putting in jeopardy the Basin's resources.

Thank you for considering my input into the Commission's proposed natural gas development regulations. Meanwhile, please feel free to call upon me if you have any questions regarding this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert L. Freeman".

Robert L. Freeman
State Representative
136th Legislative District

RLF/blm

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