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House of Representatives
 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
 Harrisburg

COMMITTEES

CONSUMER AFFAIRS, CHAIRMAN
 INSURANCE
 LEGISLATIVE BUDGET & FINANCE

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

RECEIVED/DELAWARE RIVER
 BASIN COMMISSION
 2011 APR 18 P 1:18

Dear Ms. Bush:

I write to express my concern over 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 support the development of natural gas from the Marcellus Shale because the fuel is efficient, clean and versatile. This tremendous resource can further our nation's goals of energy security, clean air and do so while promoting economic activity in Pennsylvania and the DRBC region. I am troubled by the impact that the draft regulations could have on the development of the Marcellus and our energy future.

I have been a supporter of the DRBC and its traditional authority regarding the protection of the water resources of the Delaware River Basin. I have been a strong proponent of funding the DRBC as I have worked hard in years past to secure meaningful appropriations for the Commission. In FY 2009-2010, the Commonwealth appropriated \$1.020 million for the DRBC and in FY 2010-2011, \$1.012 million is available from Pennsylvania. Keep in mind that this significant contribution from Pennsylvania is more than the Commonwealth provides to the Susquehanna River Basin Commission, the Chesapeake Bay Commission, the Ohio River Basin Commission, and the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River *combined*.

April 6, 2011

Ms. Pamela Bush, DRBC

The proposed regulations go too far in expanding the Commission's authority to land use and other requirements that are legally in the hands of Pennsylvania and its sister states in the Basin. Pennsylvania has comprehensive laws and regulations on the development of oil and gas. These regulations effectively address issues unique to the development of shale gas and have been diligently developed by the Department of Environmental Protection and its former Secretary, John Hanger. I would like to know what exactly the Commission finds lacking in Pennsylvania's regulatory scheme that compelled it to issue these overreaching regulations. I question providing significant funding to DRBC to duplicate Pennsylvania rules and regulations.

The draft regulations duplicate the state's requirements in many respects, overstep the authority of the DRBC and establish a program that will further deplete the limited resources of the Commission. There is absolutely no legal basis nor regulatory need for the DRBC to regulate natural gas operations in the area of the siting, design, and operation of well pads as proposed by the draft regulations.

I urge you to scale back the regulations and concentrate on managing water resources and eliminate all provisions of the regulations that duplicate existing environmental laws and regulations in the Commonwealth.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert W. Godshall". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Robert" and last name "Godshall" clearly distinguishable.

Robert W. Godshall, Chairman
Consumer Affairs Committee

RWG:CFjh

Com:DRBC ltr. 4.6.11