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RECEIVED/DELAWARE RIVER
BASIN COMMISSION

2011 MAR -7 A 11:48

Senate of Pennsylvania

March 3, 2011

Delaware River Basin Commission
P.O. Box 7360
25 State Police Drive
West Trenton, NJ 08628

Dear Commission Secretary:

It has come to my attention that comments on draft rules are being received by the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) on proposed natural gas drilling regulations. More than ninety (90) days of a comment opportunity period as well as long period allowing written comment on the proposed regulations has already been provided. I understand that the residents, business people and community stakeholders affected by the policies and the decisions of the DRBC have turned out in significant numbers to participate in the public forums offered to solicit comment on the proposed regulations. I write to you now because Pennsylvania residents have contacted my office expressing concern that additional delays in the comment period are unwarranted.

I commend the great work of the DRBC and its thoughtful deliberations regarding the natural gas drilling regulations that should apply to such activities in the Delaware River watershed. I believe the DRBC has shown extraordinary diligence to ensure that its regulations properly protect the vital environmental ecosystem and the pristine water quality of the region under its jurisdiction.

I write to request that you focus on the public comments and the written comments you have received and that you move as swiftly as possible to the development of final and fair regulations. This will ensure that Pennsylvania landowners – as well as the business concerns who have purchased rights to conduct business at lands under your jurisdiction – be properly informed and served by your work. I appeal to the DRBC to avoid further delays in promulgating its final regulations and to act swiftly following expiry of the April 15, 2011, comment period. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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

John P. Blake
Senate of Pennsylvania
22nd District