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February 24, 2011

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

**Re: Natural Gas Development Regulations**

Dear Director Collier and Commission Members,

We, the undersigned members of the New Jersey Legislature, ask you to delay the adoption of regulations on natural gas development in the Delaware River Basin until the scientific studies being compiled by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) are completed, and until strong, comprehensive federal rules on natural gas development are in place. The Delaware River Basin provides clean drinking water to approximately 3 million people and key industries in New Jersey, and hasty action to approve natural gas development in the Delaware River Basin would put this precious natural resource at risk of serious contamination.

Preventing degradation of the Delaware River Basin by natural gas development is essential to protecting New Jersey's water supply. The exceptional quality of the Upper Delaware River's headwaters sustains the drinking water for 15 million people across four states.

The drilling technique to be used in the Delaware River Basin, a practice known as hydraulic fracturing, has been found to use a variety of contaminating chemicals and materials that can suddenly and in an uncontrolled manner be introduced into the surface waters and ground water of the State. The companies engaging in the use of this drilling technique have been less than forthcoming in revealing the "cocktail" of chemicals, and we are concerned that they can be introduced into these waters. In June 2010, there occurred an incident of an uncontrolled release of many gallons of contaminated water and natural gas from a hydraulic fracturing drill site in Clearfield County, Pennsylvania, and we fear that other such accidents are likely to occur.

The regulations that the DRBC adopts regarding natural gas development will indelibly impact New Jersey's water resources, public health, and the environment. It is essential that the

DRBC delay the adoption of natural gas development regulations in the Basin until the environmental studies currently being developed by the EPA and DRBC are completed and the potential primary, secondary, and cumulative impacts of hydraulic fracturing on the watershed are assessed. Taking action to adopt natural gas development rules now, before the scientific studies are completed and impacts are known, is premature and may jeopardize New Jersey's water supply.

Our representatives on the DRBC need to protect New Jersey's interests and ensure that the state's drinking water and its economy are not placed at risk by adopting natural gas rules without sound science.

Sincerely,

Senator Bob Gordon  
Assemblywoman Connie Wagner  
Senate President Stephen M. Sweeney  
Senate Majority Leader Barbara Buono  
Senator Diane B. Allen, Deputy Minority Leader  
Senator Bob Smith, Chair of the Senate Environment and Energy Committee  
Senator Loretta Weinberg  
Senator Joseph F. Vitale  
Senator Donald Norcross  
Senator Christopher Bateman, Deputy Conference Leader  
Senator Paul Sarlo, Deputy Majority Leader  
Senator Linda Greenstein  
Senator Sandra B. Cunningham, Majority Whip  
Senator Fred H. Madden Jr.  
Senator Nia Gill, Senate President Pro Tempore

Assemblyman Reed Gusciora, Deputy Majority Leader  
Assemblywoman Joan M. Voss, Deputy Majority Leader  
Assemblywoman Celeste Riley  
Assemblyman John J. Burzichelli, Deputy Speaker  
Assemblyman John McKeon, Chair of the Assembly Environment and Solid Waste Committee  
Assemblyman Peter J. Barnes III, Majority Whip  
Assemblywoman Linda Stender  
Assemblywoman Joan Quigley, Majority Conference Leader  
Assemblyman Charles S. Mainor  
Assemblywoman Valerie Vainieri Huttie  
Assemblyman Upendra Chivukula, Deputy Speaker  
Assemblyman Craig J. Coughlin  
Assemblywoman Pamela R. Lampitt  
Assemblywoman Caridad Rodriguez  
Assemblyman Gordon M. Johnson, Deputy Conference Leader  
Assemblywoman Bonnie Watson-Coleman  
Assemblyman Angel Fuentes

Assemblyman Gilbert L. Wilson  
Assemblyman Daniel R. Benson  
Assemblyman Herb Conaway Jr.  
Assemblyman Jack Connors, Deputy Speaker  
Assemblyman Ralph R. Caputo  
Assemblywoman Annette Quijano  
Assemblyman Vincent Prieto, Deputy Majority Whip