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**House of Representatives**  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
Harrisburg

COMMITTEES

Rules  
Bipartisan Management

April 13, 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

Dear Ms. Bush:

As a member of leadership in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, I am writing to provide brief comments regarding 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 responsible development of natural gas from the Marcellus Shale. Natural gas is a very efficient, clean and versatile fuel. Increasing the supply of natural gas through the development of the Marcellus will enhance energy security, promote economic development and help address air quality. On the economic development side of the ledger, Marcellus development is bringing tens of thousands of jobs to Pennsylvania and billions of dollars in economic activity. Furthermore, Marcellus-related activity is generating hundreds of millions of dollars in increased state and local tax revenue.

I am concerned with the potential impact of the regulations on the Commonwealth and the realization of gains in the areas of energy security, economic development and air quality. I support the traditional role that DRBC has played in protecting the water resources of the Delaware River Basin by regulating activities relating to water quality and quantity. However, 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 the states.

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Pennsylvania has comprehensive laws and regulations on the development of oil and gas. Regulations from the Department of Environmental Protection effectively address issues unique to the development of shale gas. 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 or 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 the Commission 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,



Representative Stanley Saylor  
Majority Whip