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House of Representatives

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April 11, 2011

Commission Secretary
DRBC
P.O. Box 7360
25 State Police Drive
West Trenton, NJ 08628

Dear DRBC Commission,

I understand you are currently accepting public comment on the Commission's draft natural gas drilling regulations. While I praise you for involving the general public in this process, I am deeply concerned with the nature and scope of the regulations that are under consideration.

I have dedicated my life to public service at the local, county, and state levels and through years of one on one contact with constituents in Monroe County and beyond, I am well aware of the issues and concerns that keep Pennsylvanians up at night.

They worry every day about the safety and health of their family and friends. They also worry about opportunities....opportunities for loved ones to get a good education and join the workforce to support a family of their own and become a responsible member of society.

I worry about the same things every day and I am overjoyed with the unique opportunity the Marcellus Shale has afforded the great Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. I recently read a Penn State study that concluded- natural gas in the Marcellus Shale if developed- could generate \$25 billion in economic activity, create 280,000 new American jobs, and add \$6 billion in new tax revenues to local state and federal governments over the next decade. Another report by a private investment firm called FBR, has valued the total economic activity resulting from Marcellus shale at \$250 billion. At a time when our economies are struggling, locally, statewide and nationally, we cannot afford to shut the door on this kind of opportunity, which is exactly what may happen in the Delaware River Basin if the Commission's regulations are enacted in their current state.

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The draft regulations do nothing but complicate the process with an added layer of unnecessary fees and requirements. For example, the proposed limits on the size and location of well pads are extremely unrealistic and almost impossible to meet. Engineers should determine well pad location and size requirements, not inflexible regulations or the whims of the executive director.

In Pennsylvania, DEP regulators have already been improving regulations and enforcement of rules since 2008. State regulation also now requires that all drilling applications include a mandatory water plan describing water withdrawal and disposal procedures, just to name a few improvements.

I hope you will consider these comments while you review the proposed draft regulations.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mario M. Scavello".

Representative Mario Scavello, 176th District