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CONGRESSMAN PATRICK J. MURPHY  
EIGHTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA

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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

No. 0010 P. 2

1808 LONGWORTH BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
PHONE: (202) 226-4278  
FAX: (202) 226-9611

BRISTOL OFFICE:  
414 MILL STREET  
BRISTOL, PA 19007  
PHONE: (215) 826-1963  
FAX: (215) 826-1897

DOYLESTOWN OFFICE:  
72 NORTH MAIN STREET  
DOYLESTOWN, PA 18901  
PHONE: (215) 348-1184  
FAX: (215) 348-1449

[HTTP://PATRICKMURPHY.HOUSE.GOV](http://PATRICKMURPHY.HOUSE.GOV)

March 15, 2010

Pamela M. Bush, Esq.  
Commission Secretary  
Delaware River Basin Commission  
P.O. Box 7360, 25 State Police Drive  
West Trenton, NJ 08628-0360

Dear Secretary Bush:

I am writing to thank you for the recent decision to extend the public comment period for Stone Energy Corporation's proposed surface water withdrawal and natural gas well site applications. The Commission's commitment to public input is commendable and something that should be encouraged for all future applications of natural gas exploration and development activities in the basin. However, to better serve the citizens in the basin, I am requesting the Commission hold public hearings on this matter in Bucks County and other counties downstream of the proposed activities, so that all may conveniently have their voices heard.

Additionally, I want to encourage the Commission to exercise caution and use scientifically backed analysis of all environmental impacts of natural gas drilling on the Delaware River Watershed when considering new applications.

Hydraulic fracturing is a process that not only requires the removal of large amounts of water which could negatively affect the watershed, but also mixes that water with unknown additives. Protecting the safety of our waters requires both disclosure of those additives to the appropriate regulators and complete treatment of wastewater to remove any potentially dangerous additives.

As a supporter of both domestic energy production and protecting the waters of the Delaware River Basin, I support a balanced approach to natural gas drilling in Pennsylvania. While we should utilize our natural resources to lessen our dependence on foreign oil, we must do so in an environmentally safe manner. I hope the Commission will take this balance into account when reviewing all natural gas exploration and development activities within the basin.

Sincerely,

Patrick J. Murphy  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS