



December 6, 2022

The Honorable Phil Murphy
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 001
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Governor Murphy,

The League of Women Voters of New Jersey is a nonpartisan, public interest organization that takes positions on issues through study and consensus at the grassroots level. The League supports policies that protect and conserve natural resources and ensure the safe treatment, transportation, storage, and disposal of solid and hazardous wastes in order to protect public health, air, water, and land resources.

It is essential that we protect the quantity and quality of the water in the Delaware River watershed, which up to 17 million people in New Jersey and the surrounding states rely on for drinking water.

We need a full ban on all fracking activities in the Delaware Basin, not just a ban on fracking itself within the watershed. A full ban on fracking activities should extend to any use of basin water that supports the fossil fuel industry outside the basin, and to any importation of fracking wastewater into the watershed. There are numerous reasons to support a full ban on fracking activity, including but not limited to the following:

- Fracking wastewater cannot be treated without contamination that impacts local environments, water sources, and even the workers. Studies show that even treated fracking wastewater is highly toxic: containing heavy metals and unknown chemicals that can't be removed. It pollutes any surface water source it gets into through accidents or intentional release.
- Basin water should not be used to support the fossil fuel industry at a time where we are shifting focus to support clean energy. We cannot deplete this important water supply that is needed for clean drinking water, crop irrigation, and more.
- Transporting fracking wastewater results in accidents that pollute wherever the waste runs off to and contaminates the soils and local surface waters.

- Hydrofracking itself has disastrous impacts on local communities and emits untold quantities of methane (86 times more potent as a greenhouse gas than CO₂) to the atmosphere. We are already experiencing adverse impacts from climate change and we cannot afford to increase these pollutants.

Among the most immediate impacts people will experience from climate change is the impact on our water supplies. It is our greatest responsibility to protect public health and make clean, affordable, abundant water available to all.

The League of Women Voters of New Jersey finds that the only acceptable regulation is to ban all fracking-related activities in the Delaware River Basin. We urge you to vote for a full ban at the Delaware River Basin Commission meeting on December 7th. Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,
Jesse Burns
Executive Director League of Women Voters of New Jersey