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June 11, 2010

Independent Regulatory Review Commission
333 Market Street, 14th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101

RE: Chapter 95, Wastewater. IRRC #2806. EQB 7-446.

Dear Independent Regulatory Review Commission

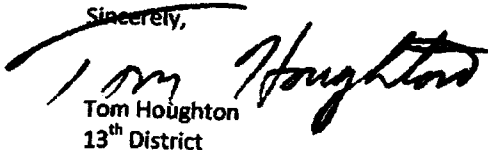
We write today in support of a discharge standard 500 milligrams per liter (mg/L) for Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) and 250 mg/L each for Sulfates and Chlorides for natural gas drillers. These standards will go a long way towards ensuring that federal drinking water standards are met across the state for TDS. We also applaud DEP for setting a reasonable ceiling for TDS for existing industries with discharge permits.

DEP engaged in a thorough and well rounded stakeholder process to arrive at these standards. We applaud the Department for being careful and conscientious of our state's interests and needs and of the opportunity that natural gas drilling presents for us, but we also recognize that we are overdue to update regulations in the face of a large and entirely new industry here. Hydrofracking has never been conducted on such a scale and with such volumes of water in our state before.

We also acknowledge that many other states that host hydrofracking do not permit any discharge of wastewater in their states. Pennsylvania is water rich state but it does not have the sort of geology that makes large scale deep-well injection an option. Therefore, it is critical that we implement a strong discharge standard for wastewater that does make it into our water supply.

Please approve these rules so that they may be promulgated quickly and begin protecting the people of Pennsylvania as well as the aquatic life that so many of them enjoy.

Sincerely,


Tom Houghton
13th District



House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

#2806
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