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Senate of Pennsylvania

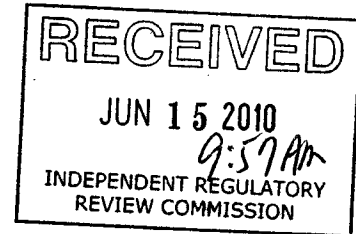
June 15, 2010

2806

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Honorable Arthur Coccodrilli, Chairman
Independent Regulatory Review Commission
333 Market Street, 14th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Dear Chairman Coccodrilli:

Please accept this correspondence as my support for Chapter 95, Wastewater, IRRC #2806. EQB 7-446 final form regulation providing for a discharge standard of 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.

It is my understanding that DEP engaged in a thorough and well rounded stakeholder process to arrive at these standards. DEP should be commended in this matter for being careful and conscientious of our Commonwealth's interests and needs and for reviewing the opportunity that natural gas drilling presents for us. In this regard, the Commonwealth is 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.

It is also important to note 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 a strong discharge standard for wastewater is implemented that does make it into our water supply.

It is my hope that IRRC will approve these rules at the June 17, 2010 meeting 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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisa M. Boscola".

Lisa M. Boscola
State Senator - 18th District